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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1242)

Name of Candidate	ANKUR DAS		
Medium Eng./Hindi	ENGLISH	Registration Number	670858
Center	ONLINE	Date	05/09/2019

INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1	10	
2	10	
3	10	
4	10	
5	10	
6	10	
7	10	
8	10	
9	10	
10	10	
11	15	
12	15	
13	15	
14	15	
15	15	
16	15	
17	15	
18	15	
19	15	
20	15	

Total Marks Obtained:

Remarks:

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में सूचनाएं भरना आवश्यक है (नाम, प्रश्न-पत्र कोड, विद्यार्थी क्रमांक आदि)।
2. There are **TWENTY** questions printed in **ENGLISH & HINDI**
   इसमें बीस प्रश्न हैं अंग्रेजी और हिन्दी में छपे हैं।
3. **All questions are compulsory.**
   सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।
4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
   प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के अंक उसके सामने दिए गए हैं।
5. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other that the authorized one.
   प्रश्नों के उत्तर उसी माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए जिसका उल्लेख आपके प्रवेश पत्र में किया गया है और उस माध्यम का स्पष्ट उल्लेख प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के मुख्य पृष्ठ पर अंकित निर्दिष्ट स्थान पर किया जाना चाहिए। उल्लिखित माध्यम के अतिरिक्त अन्य किसी माध्यम में लिए गए उत्तर पर कोई अंक नहीं मिलेंगे।
6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
   प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए।
7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़ा हुआ पृष्ठ या उसके अंश को स्पष्ट रूप से काटा जाना चाहिए।

16-B, 2nd Floor, Above National Trust Building, Bada Bazar Marg, Old Rajinder Nagar, Delhi-110060

Plot No. 857, 1st Floor, Banda Bahadur Marg (Opp Punjab & Sindh Bank), Dr. Mukherjee Nagar Delhi- 110009

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EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Contextual Competence
2. Content Competence
3. Language Competence
4. Introduction Competence
5. Structure - Presentation Competence
6. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

All the Best

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1. Tribal art in India generally reflects the creative energy found in rural areas that acts as an undercurrent to the craftsmanship. Explain with reference to the Worli and Gond paintings. **(150 words) 10**

भारत में जनजातीय कला सामान्यत: ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में पाई जाने वाली उस सृजनात्मक ऊर्जा को प्रतिबिम्बित करती है जो जनजातीय लोगों को शिल्पकारिता के लिए प्रेरित करती है। वार्ली और गोंड चित्रकलाओं के संदर्भ में स्पष्ट कीजिए।

Tribal Art forms are an integral feature of Indian art heritage. They are drawn depicting special occasions like births, festivals, harvests etc.

Warli Art, Gond Paintings, Saura Art (Odisha) and Bamboo craft (North East India) are ~~~~ some examples.

Warli Art (Maharashtra)

→ Drawn using simple shapes like circles and triangles

Fig: Warli Art

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→ Drawn using white rice powder on red - ochre mud walls.

→ Depicts scenes from hunting, dances, harvest, worships etc.

→ Striking simplicity and aesthetics

Gond Art (Madhya Pradesh)

→ Depicts Gond's closeness to nature.

→ Representation of local flora and animals

→ Uses colored natural pigments

→ Geometric shapes used.

Tribal Art forms are a valuable heritage of craftmanship + creative energy and they should be cherished and preserved

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2. Though it had its achievements, the exclusion of Indians from the system was a key feature of judicial reforms introduced by Cornwallis. Analyze. **(150 words) 10**

यद्यपि कॉर्नवॉलिस द्वारा आरंभ किए गए न्यायिक सुधारों की अपनी उपलब्धियां थीं, तथापि इस व्यवस्था मे भारतीयों का बाहर रखा जाना इसकी एक मुख्य विशेषता थी। विश्लेषण कीजिए।

Cornwallis initiated major reforms in the Indian judicial system during his tenure as Governor General.

Features

→ Consolidation + rationalisation of courts.

→ Created a hierarchy of courts from Munsif Adalat, Diwani Adalat to District court, circuit court and Provincial court.

→ Separated Judiciary from revenue collection (executive)

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Achievements

→ Common law for all subjects.
→ Codification of laws.
→ hierarchy of laws ensured proper justice delivery
→ Sovereignty of laws - cannot be changed at will.

However, it excluded Indians due to the following reasons

→ Principle of European Superiority
→ Allegations of corruption against native Indians

While judicial reforms by Cornwallis ushered in greater rule of law, exclusion of Indians prevented it from being truly inclusive

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3. Outline the course of the revolutionary movement in the Indian freedom struggle during the 1920s and 1930s, paying special attention to the contributions of Bhagat Singh. **(150 words) 10**

भगत सिंह के योगदान पर विशेष बल देते हुए, 1920 और 1930 के दशक के दौरान भारतीय स्वतंत्रता संग्राम में क्रांतिकारी आंदोलन की कार्यप्रणाली को रेखांकित कीजिए।

The sudden withdrawal of the Non-Cooperation movement in 1920 led to disillusionment among Indian masses and laid foundations of revolutionary movement.

→ Hindustan Republic Association (HRA) Ramprasad Bisbil, Bhatukeshwar Dutt etal, inspired by the Irish Republican Army.

→ Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA) – Chandrashekhar Azad

→ Chittagong Armoury Raid – Master Surya Sen.

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Bhagat Singh was one of the Stalwarts of the Revolutionary movement. His contributions

→ Founded Punjab Naujawan Bharat Sabha to channelise youth to constructive nationalism

→ Associated with Hindustan Socialist Republican Association

→ Threw Bomb in the Legislative Council to use court trial as propaganda forum.

→ Emphasised on brotherhood and elimination of communalism.

→ Espoused Marxism and believed in fair and just economic order.

→ Inspired youth to join national movement

Bhagt Singh's contribution is an integral part of the national movement and played a major role in freedom struggle

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4. The Marshall Plan was important in the recovery of the European states from the aftermath of the Second World War. However, it also became a crucial factor in the creation of two Europes i.e. East and West. Discuss. **(150 words) 10**

द्वितीय विश्व युद्ध के उपरांत यूरोपीय राष्ट्रों को पुनर्जीवित करने में मार्शल योजना महत्वपूर्ण थी। हालांकि, यह दो यूरोप (अर्थात् पूर्वी और पश्चिमी यूरोप) के सृजन में एक महत्वपूर्ण कारक बन गया। चर्चा कीजिए।

Marshall Plan was espoused by American Secretary of State George Marshall in 1948 to aid post war economic resurrection of Europe.

→ Reduction in trade barriers
→ Rapid industrialisation
→ Removal of regulations and start free market economy.

Role in European Recovery

→ Aided rapid industrial development and job creation

→ Prevented post war

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poverty and civil war in European states.

→ Ensured greater economic and political integration

→ Acted as precursor to European Union.

Role in creation of 2 Blocs

→ led to rapid development of Western Europe (under US influence) compared to Eastern Europe (under Soviet USSR)

→ Led to the establishment of arms race + cold war

→ Creation of Military Pacts like NATO and Warsaw Pact

→ Manifested in proxy military conflicts in Korea, Vietnam and Afghanistan

While the Marshall Plan ensured economic development, it led to creation of 2 power blocks and divided Europe

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5. Examine the causes behind the existence of bonded labour in contemporary India. Also, discuss the steps that should be taken for its redress. **(150 words) 10**

समकालीन भारत में बंधुआ मजदूरी की विद्यमानता के अंतर्निहित कारणों की जांच कीजिए। साथ ही, इसके निवारण हेतु उठाए जाने वाले कदमों की विवेचना कीजिए।

Bonded labour refers to work without pay / minimal pay and suspension of basic human rights of workers

Causes

→ Socioeconomic realities, large number of poor people (21.6% under Poverty line: Census 2011)

→ Tradition of caste based opression of lower castes.

→ Ineffective implemention of laws.

→ Political + monetary clout of perpetrators, making enforcement difficult

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Constitutional & Legislative Measures

→ Art 23 : Prevents bonded labor slavery and "begar"

→ Prevention of Bonded Labour Act

→ Minimum wages Act stipulating minimum wages for workers.

Steps needed

→ Increased focus on implementation of laws

→ Providing impetus to agricultural economy to prevent distress.

→ Land reforms, tenancy regulation and redistribution of land to landless labourers.

→ Providing social security to unorganised workers.

The scourge of Bonded labour is a blot on Principle of Social Justice in our Preamble and must be remedied at the earliest

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6. State the factors that enhance the risk for initiation or continuation of abuse of drugs by the youth. What measures can be taken to address this issue? **(150 words) 10**

युवाओं द्वारा मादक द्रव्यों का सेवन आरम्भ करने अथवा उसे जारी रखने के जोखिम को बढ़ाने वाले कारकों का उल्लेख कीजिए। इस समस्या के समाधान के लिए क्या उपाय किए जा सकते हैं?

According to the World Drug Report by UNODC, 13% of the global population has indulged in drug abuse.

Reasons

→ Easy availability of drugs, particularly "soft drugs" like cannabis.

→ Peer pressure among youth

→ Position of India proximal to drug producing areas Golden Triangle and Golden Crescent.

→ Glorification of drug use among movie stars, musicians etc.

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Measures to address

→ Proper enforcement of anti-drug laws.

→ Capacity building + rehabilitation of existing drug users.

→ Awareness against drug use in schools, television and social media ["Say No to Drugs" campaign]

→ Increased vigilance along international borders, particularly in Punjab + North Eastern sectors.

The menace of drug abuse is detrimental to youth and their role in nation building. It is essential that the issue is checked at the earliest.

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7. Critically analyze the impact of globalization on culture in the context of India. (150 words) 10

भारत के संदर्भ में संस्कृति पर वैश्वीकरण के प्रभाव का समालोचनात्मक विश्लेषण कीजिए।

Globalisation refers to the intermingling of social, economic and cultural aspects among populations of various countries. It is brought about by economic interaction, print, visual and social media

Impact on Indian culture

→ Prevalance of English speech among youth.

→ Higher adoption of Western media — music, movies, TV serials.

→ Erosion of tradional values.

→ Changing of family structures.

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→ Increased exposure to outside world through media + foreign visits.

→ Increased economic opportunities.

Positives

- → Expansion of knowledge + ideas
- → Adaptability to wide range of cultures
- → Mutual respect for cultures from different countries
- → Economic opportunities

Negatives

- → Erosion of Joint family culture, prevalence of divorce.
- → Ignoring Indian heritage + languages + traditions
- → Foreign culture may not be suitable for Indian sensibilities

Globalisation is a [two edged sword], its benefits must balance its faults for healthy social development.

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8. Giving a brief account of distribution of cotton textile industry in India, identify the factors responsible for localization of this industry in Ahmedabad–Mumbai–Pune region. **(150 words) 10**

भारत में सूती वस्त्र उद्योग के वितरण का संक्षिप्त विवरण प्रस्तुत करते हुए, अहमदाबाद-मुंबई-पुणे क्षेत्र में इस उद्योग के स्थानीयकरण हेतु उत्तरदायी कारकों की पहचान कीजिए।

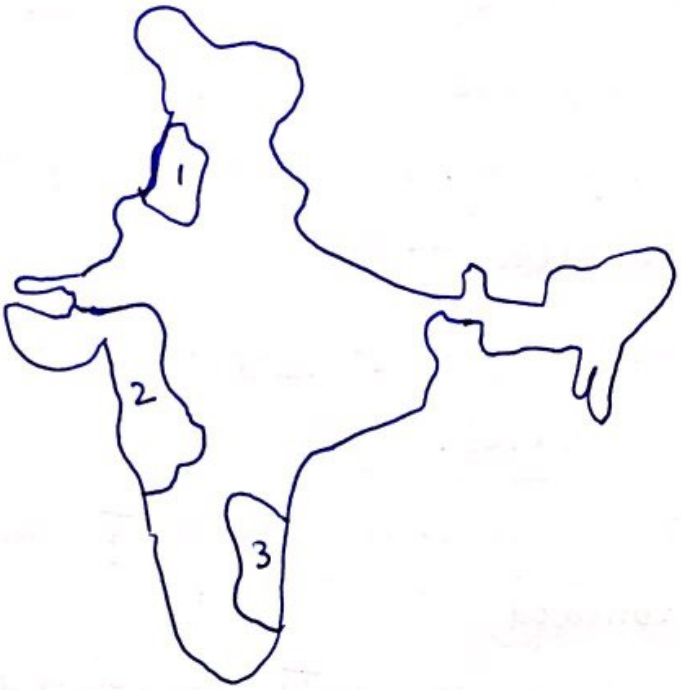

Fig: Cotton producing Areas

1 – Punjab-Haryana belt
2 – Maharashtra Gujarat belt
3 – Tamil Nadu – Andhra P.

India is the 2nd Largest producer of cotton in the world and the cotton industry is localised in the Ahmedabad Pune Mumbai Region

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Factors Responsible

→ Fertile soil (black soil), Temperature (20-30°c) and rainfall (50-100cm) in the area

→ Presence of adequate capital (Mumbai – Financial centre)

→ Cheap labour from adjoining heartland.

→ Presence of Major Ports (Mumbai, Romdla)

→ Adequate Markets in high density population areas

→ Historical factors – site for cotton industry since Indus valley times – medieval trade, British era.

The Mumbai – Pune – Ahmedabad region is the largest cotton producing region owing to a combination of geographical, economic & historical factors

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9. How do increasing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions impact coastal and marine ecosystems? Highlight various measures that can be taken for protection and restoration of such vulnerable ecosystems. **(150 words) 10**

ग्रीन हाउस गैसों (GHG) के उत्सर्जन में वृद्धि, तटीय एवं समुद्री पारितंत्र को कैसे प्रभावित करती है? ऐसे सुभेद्य पारितंत्रों के संरक्षण तथा पुनरुद्धार के लिए अपनाए जा सकने वाले विभिन्न उपायों पर प्रकाश डालिए।

Greenhouse Gas Emissions play a major role in Global Climate Change and affect a vast spectrum of ecosystems

Impact on Coastal + Marine Ecosystem

→ Deoxygenation of ~~gas~~ sea water due to increasing temperature

→ Acidification of sea-water

→ Heating of water prevents upwelling of cold water — less food for marine organisms.

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→ Increased susceptibility of coastal plants (Mangroves) to heat stress

→ Increased risk of natural disasters like floods, cyclones.

Mitigation

→ Protection of marine ecosystems + coastal areas from unauthorised development/encroachment.

→ Eliminating discharge of untreated effluents + sewage into sea-water

→ Partnerships with global community (Mangroves for Future Campaign).

Marine and coastal ecosystems are critical to a healthy environment and they should be protected from adverse effects of climate change.

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10. Explain the phenomenon of a Polar Vortex. Also, comment on the reasons as to why tropical areas as south as Florida have been witnessing sub-zero temperatures in recent years. **(150 words) 10**

ध्रुवीय भंवर (पोलर वोर्टेक्स) की परिघटना की व्याख्या कीजिए। साथ ही, उन कारणों की भी विवेचना कीजिए कि क्यों फ्लोरिडा जैसे दक्षिणवर्ती उष्णकटिबंधीय क्षेत्रों तक में हाल के वर्षों में शून्य से भी कम तापमान देखने को मिल रहा है।

Polar vortex refers to a region of low pressure winds encircling the North & South Poles

→ It prevents icy - cold winds from reaching lower latitudes.

→ They ~~cir~~ circulate anti-clockwise in Northern Hemisphere and Clockwise in Southern Hemisphere

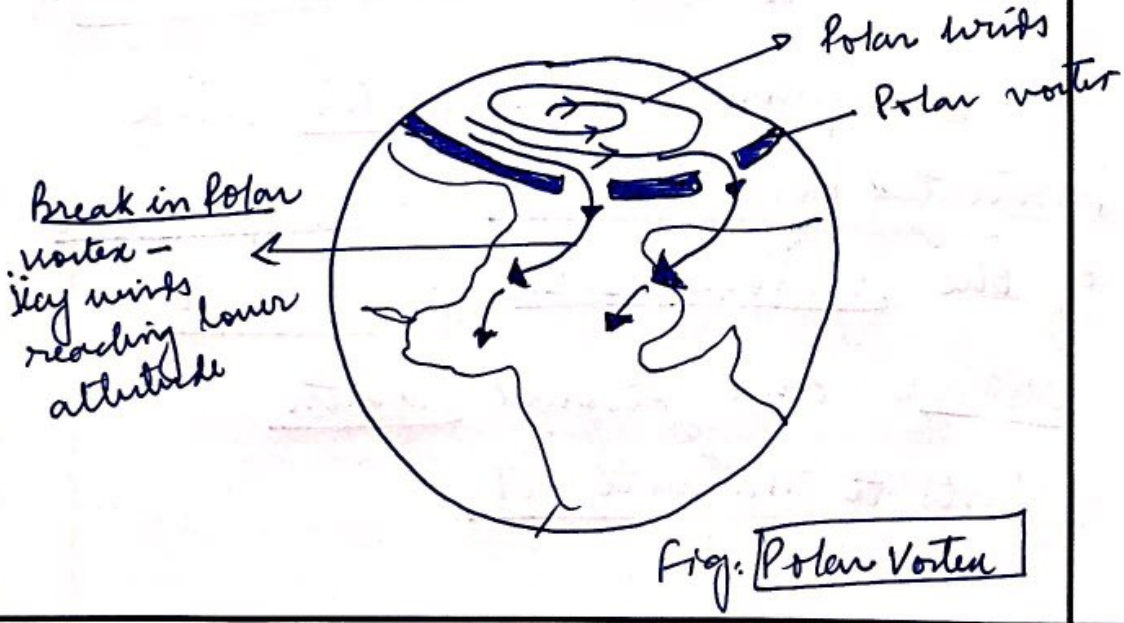

Fig: Polar Vortex

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The incidents of sub-zero temperature in Southern latitudes in Winter of 2018-19 brought into focus the effect of polar vortex

→ Disruption of polar vortex causes influx of icy cold winds to southern latitudes

→ They are caused by
① Global warming
② Arctic warming
③ Disruption of circulation patterns in Arctic Region

The disruption of polar vortex and associated cold weather is symptomatic of the devious role of climate change and should hasten efforts to mitigate it.

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11. The most powerful trend of medieval Indian literature is devotional poetry which dominates almost all the major languages of the country. Elucidate. **(250 words) 15**

मध्यकालीन भारतीय साहित्य की सबसे सशक्त प्रवृत्ति भक्ति काव्य है, जो देश की लगभग सभी प्रमुख भाषाओं पर हावी रही। स्पष्ट कीजिए।

Medieval Indian literature is majority devotional and draws on the relationship between man and God.

Major languages

→ Bengal: Chaitanya - proponent of Vaishnavism and Vaishnav Bhakti through Kirtans

→ Assam: Sankadeva - Sattriya culture through music dance and drama

→ Tamil Nadu: Nyanyar and Alvars - poetry and devotional songs in

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Tamil over relationship b/w man & God

→ Punjab: Guru Nanak, Sikhism and Gurbaani (Naam Kirtan)

→ Hindi Belt: Saints Kabir, Tulsidas, Mirabai who composed dohas, kirtans and bhajans

→ Maharashtra: Namdev and devotional congregations of kirtans and music.

Significance of Bhakti Devotional literature

→ Composed in local language as opposed to Sanskrit.

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→ Stressed on personal relationship with God – relatable to masses

→ Promoted unity and universal brotherhood b/w all religions (Eg. Sikhism, Sufism)

→ Focus on performing arts (Sattriya dance, Bhaona plays || Vaishnaite Kirtans) to draw devotees.

Medieval devotional literature is an important component of contemporary Indian literal heritage and should be preserved and encouraged.

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12. Discuss the major changes introduced by the Government of India Act, 1919 and its significance as a historical landmark in the Indian freedom struggle. **(250 words) 15**

भारत सरकार अधिनियम, 1919 द्वारा आरम्भ किए गए प्रमुख परिवर्तनों और भारतीय स्वतंत्रता संघर्ष में एक ऐतिहासिक घटना के रूप में इसके महत्व पर चर्चा कीजिए।

Government of India Act was a major watershed moment in the National Movement:

Features

→ Dyarchy in Provinces: Transferred ~~Reserved~~ subjects under popular ministers and Reserved subjects under Governor

→ Allowed women right to vote.

→ Expansion of Provincial legislatures (70% elected)

→ Bicameral legislature at central level

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→ 3 out of 6 members of Viceroy's Executive council to be Indians.

Drawbacks/ Criticisms

- Limited franchise
- Dyarchy caused practical issues in administration
- Communal and Caste electorates eroded Unity
- Allocation of seats in legislature arbitrary and whimsical.

Significance in freedom Struggle

→ Dissatisfaction over reports caused mass demonstrations (included women)

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→ Played role in Non-Cooperation movement.

→ Promoted new generation of leaders experience in electoral politics

→ Formation of Simon commission to review reforms led to the drafting of Nehru Report (in response to Lord Birkenhead's challenge)

↳ First attempt at drafting constitution

The 1919 Act, while allowing certain concessions, left much to be desired – ultimately playing a major role in further intensification of National Movement.

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13. Multiple factors allowed the British to gain control over India. In this context, highlighting the main developments, trace the course of British conquest of India from 1757 to 1856. **(250 words) 15**

विविध कारकों ने अंग्रेजों को भारत पर नियंत्रण प्राप्त करने में सफलता प्रदान की। इस संदर्भ में, प्रमुख घटनाक्रमों पर प्रकाश डालते हुए, 1757 से 1856 तक अंग्रेजों के भारत विजय की कार्यवाही की रूप रेखा प्रस्तुत कीजिए।

The British conquest of India was a gradual process involving both external & internal factors

→ Battle of Plassey (1757)
Gave British stronghold in Bengal Region - ports and economic powerhouse

→ Battle of Buxar :
Diwani Rights of Bengal to British - provided source of funding.

→ Lack of Unity among Native Princes

PTO

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As shown by Anglo-Marathas and Anglo Mysore wars - weaked Indian ~~empire~~ kingdoms

→ Anglo French wars : Drove out French from large tracts and confined them to small area → removal of rival powers and better consolidation of British rule

→ Lack of charismatic leaders helped British to acquire various states by treachery (~~Usana~~

→ Policies like Doctrine of Lapse allowed annexation of Jhansi, Satara etc.

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→ Superior arms & ammunition of British aided in defeating native princes

→ Swift diplomacy and political strategy by British allowed expansion (Policy of Ring Fence, Subordinate Alliance)

The British conquest of India befor 1857 was aided by various factors - both external and internal - pointing to lack of cohesion, coordination and trading among native states

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14. Give a brief account of the circumstances under which Indo-Sri Lanka Peace Accord was signed in 1987. Mentioning its important provisions, provide a critical assessment of this accord. **(250 words) 15**

उन परिस्थितियों का संक्षिप्त विवरण दीजिए, जिसके तहत 1987 में भारत-श्रीलंका शांति समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर किए गए थे। इसके महत्वपूर्ण प्रावधानों का उल्लेख करते हुए, इस समझौते का आलोचनात्मक मूल्यांकन प्रस्तुत कीजिए।

Indo-Sri Lanka Peace Accord (1987) was signed between the two nations as an attempt to end the Lankan Civil War

Circumstances

→ Following Sri-Lankan independence in 1948, majority Sinhalas formed Government.

→ Systematic discrimination against Sri-Lankan Tamils ensued

→ Imposition of Sinhalese as official language.

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→ Formation of Liberation of Tamil Tigers Elam (LTTE) as an armed group to fight for Tamil Rights.

→ Seige of Jaffna (Tamil Stronghold) by Sri Lankan Army.

→ Indias' airdropping of humanitarian aid in Jaffna and domestic pressure to reach settlement on Tamil Issue.

Key Provisions

→ Disarming of LTTE rebels

→ Withdrawal of Sri Lankan Army from Tamil areas

→ Cessation of Indian support to armed Tamil Conflict

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→ Deployment of Indian Peace Keeping force (IPKF).

Critical Assesment

→ Large number of Indian Soldiers martyred.

→ Disentment on both Lankan and Tamil Sides on Indian Military involvement.

→ Domestic resentment by Tamil Parties

→ Assasination of Rajiv Gandhi by LTTE.

Following a series of unwelcome incidents, the IPKF withdrew, plunging Lanka back in Civil War.

→ While the IPKF was well intentioned, Lacunae in planning, strategy and management led to undesirable results of the project.

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15. With India becoming increasingly urban and the urban poor increasing in number, it is imperative that the challenges they face be addressed urgently. Discuss. **(250 words) 15**

भारत में हो रहे द्रुत शहरीकरण और शहरी गरीबों की बढ़ती संख्या के साथ ही, यह अत्यावश्यक हो गया है कि इनके द्वारा सामना की जाने वाली चुनौतियों का तत्काल समाधान किया जाए। चर्चा कीजिए।

According to census 2011, 31.4% percent of population resides in urban areas. Further 307 million registered as 'Migrants" in the census, mostly rural to urban migration.

Reasons

- Agricultural distress in rural areas
- Lack of economic growth in villages
- Economic opportunities in urban areas
- More educational opportunities in cities
- Social Factors (Marriage).

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Challenges

→ Pressure on urban infrastructure like housing, water supply, sanitation

→ Scarcity of living spaces, increase in real estate costs.

→ Pollution (water, air) due to vehicular emissions, discharge of untreated household wastes

→ Unauthorised colonies, slums.

→ Law and ~~of~~ order issues due to rising population

→ Increase in prices of food commodities

→ Increased competition of economic opportunities.

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Addressing Challenges

→ Economic development in rural areas

① Increase in agri productivity through better yielding crops, fertilizers, irrigation.

② Credit availability to farmers for agri-enterprises

③ Value addition, food processing industries.

→ Overhaul of Urban spaces

① Housing affordability (PM Awas Yojana - Urban)

② Overhaul of urban infrastructure (JNNURM, AMRUT scheme)

③ Semi-Urban area development + economic opportunities (RURBAN mission)

While urbanisation points to increasing economic development, it should be sustainable ~~and~~ according to

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

16. Violations of women's sexual and reproductive health rights are often deeply engrained in societal values and traditions. Comment.

(250 words) 15

महिलाओं के यौन और प्रजनन स्वास्थ्य अधिकारों का उल्लंघन प्राय: सामाजिक मूल्यों और परंपराओं में गंभीरतापूर्वक अंतर्निविष्ट हैं। टिप्पणी कीजिए।

Womens sexual and reproductive health rights are often relegated to secondary positions in Indian traditional values

→ Taboos on discission on menstrual hygiene and superstitions associated with it.

→ Early marriage + child marriage leading to childbirth occuring when girl is not in full sexual maturity

→ Reluctance on sexual education in traditional circles.

→ Reluctance on contraceptive use

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→ Practice of female genital mutilation in certain communities

→ Patriarchial notions on marriage – wife becomes "property" of husband – perpetuates marital rape.

→ Taboo on breast feeding in public.

Way forward

→ Increasing awareness on women rights including sexual rights

→ Provisions of sex-education in schools

→ Concerted efforts towards prevention of child marriage

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→ Criminalisation of marital rape and genital mutilation.

→ Increased access to menstrual hygiene products.

Govt interventions

→ Rashtriya Kishore Swasthya Karyakram (RMNCH + A focus on adolescents + sexual health)

→ "Suvidha" sanitary napkins at low cost.

→ MAA program to promote breastfeeding.

→ Awareness programs on menstrual + reproductive heath & contraceptives

Health of women, including sexual heath is key to ensuring all round development in a holistic manner.

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17. What do you understand by the term Land Degradation Neutrality? Highlight its significance and the steps required to achieve it.

(250 words) 15

भू-निम्नीकरण तटस्थता पद से आप क्या समझते हैं? इसके महत्व पर प्रकाश डालिए एवं इसे प्राप्त करने हेतु आवश्यक कदमों का उल्लेख कीजिए।

According to UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) Land Degration Neutrality is the state in which value of land providing economic + ecosystem services remains constant or increases over a period of time.

Principles

① AVOID: aims at prevention of degradation through preventive + curative measures

② REDUCE: Reduction of activities which contribute to land degration

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③ REVERSE : Revival of conditions in degraded land through remedial measures

Significance

→ Ensures proper soil quality for agricultural production + forestry.

→ Restores + maintains soil fertility

→ Prevents drying up of water resources + aquifers.

→ Prevents destruction of biodiversity due to desertification

→ Ensures economic + food security through continued agricultural production.

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Steps to achieve it

→ Prevention of soil erosion through afforestation, planting of strip crops

→ Recharge of groundwater ~~aqq~~ aquifers.

→ Scientific irrigation to prevent soil salinity

→ Measures to check deforestation and biodiversity loss.

→ Adopting traditional agriculture + water harvesting practices.

According to UNCCD, 122 countries have committed to ensure Land Degration Neutrality. Global co-operation is essential to prevent loss of land resources in the longrun

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18. State the geographical and economic importance of Hindukush-Himalayan region. How are the critical geographical features of this region changing and what possible consequences will it have? **(250 words) 15**

हिंदुकुश-हिमालय क्षेत्र के भौगोलिक एवं आर्थिक महत्व को स्पष्ट कीजिए। इस क्षेत्र की महत्वपूर्ण भौगौलिक विशेषताएं किस प्रकार परिवर्तित हो रही हैं और इनके संभावित परिणाम क्या हो सकते हैं?

Hindukush Himalayan Region is described as the "Third Pole" as plays a very important economic + geographical role

~~Economic~~

Geographical Role

→ Source of 12 major rivers of Indian subcontinent.

→ Protects Indian subcontinent from icy - cold winds of Central Asia

→ Causes orographic Rainfall in Sub - Himalayan belt

→ Acts as bio - diversity hotspot due to varied climate + flora and fauna

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Economic Role

→ Rivers originating provide backbone of Indian economy

→ Himalayan foothills provide temperate / alpine climate to grow high value crops (walnuts, apples, saffron)

→ Tourism + aesthetic value.

Changing features

→ Melting of glaciers.

→ Increased glacial erosion

→ Deforestation and increased landslides

→ Melting of glaciers → more water level of rivers → more destruction.

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Consequences

→ Increased instances of floods in lower areas.

→ Rise in sea levels.

→ Landslides causing destruction of infrastructure.

→ fragile environment affected - loss in biodiversity.

→ Reduction in yields of local agriculture.

The Himalayan region is important from geographical, economic and civilizational perspectives. Measures like SECURE Himalayas, National Action Plan on Himalayan Ecosystem can help mitigate ill effects of its changes.

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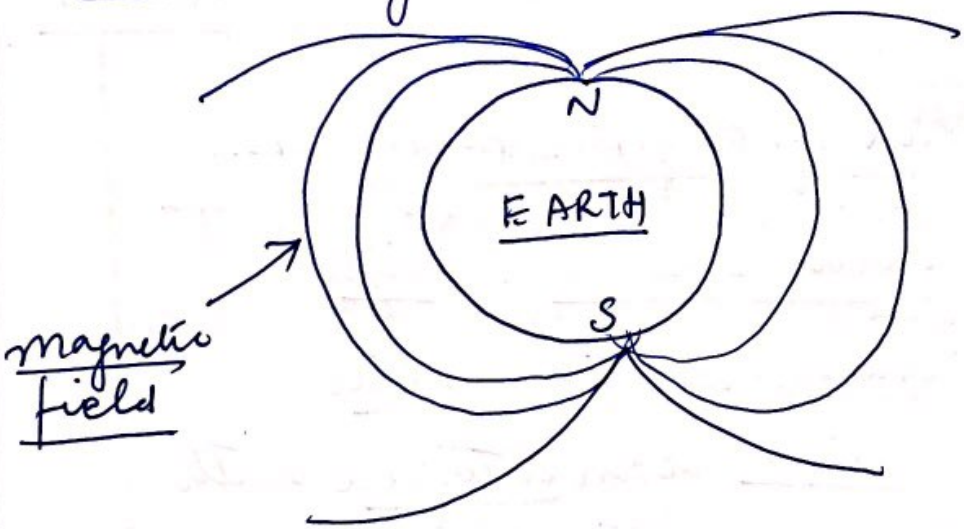
19. What is the most accepted reasoning behind occurrence of earth's magnetism? Discuss the factors behind its variation temporally and spatially. **(250 words) 15**

पृथ्वी के चुंबकत्व की घटना के पीछे सर्वाधिक स्वीकृत कारण क्या है? कालिक और स्थानिक रूप से इसके परिवर्तन हेतु उत्तरदायी कारकों पर चर्चा कीजिए।

Earth's Magnetism is akin to ~~the~~ a large bar magnet with the North and South Pole acting as 2 ends



It is caused by the presence of ferromagnetic substances in the earth's core and mantle.

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The convective circulation of liquid ferromagnetic constituents in the mantle causes the formation of an electro-magnetic field - giving the earth its constituent magnetism.

Variation of Magnetic Field

→ Solar Winds : High energy electromagnetic winds can interfere with the earths magnetism

→ Sunspot Cycle: Appearance and disappearance of sunspots is linked to magnetic variation on the Earth.

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→ Convective currents: Currents inside the Earth change in motion and composition, causing variation

While the variation of Earth's Magnetic field does not influence daily life, it has an effect on communication networks, satellite links and is of great academic interest in the field of geology.

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20. Explain Walker Circulation. Discuss how it influences Indian Monsoon.
(250 words) 15

वॉकर परिसंचरण की व्याख्या कीजिए। चर्चा कीजिए कि यह भारतीय मानसून को कैसे प्रभावित करता है।

Walker circulation is an atmospheric circulation pattern in the Tropical Pacific Ocean involving surface and sub-surface winds.

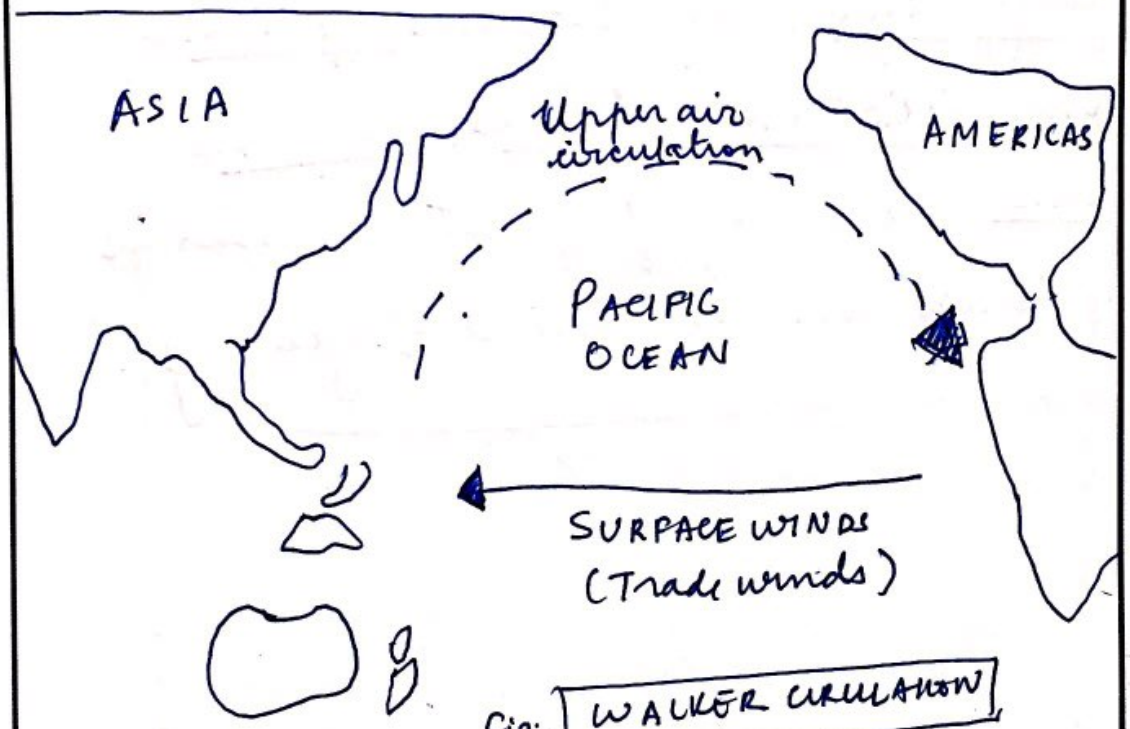

Fig: WALKER CIRCULATION

It involves surface winds from Eastern to Western Pacific due to higher temperature

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in western Pacific Ocean.

This leads to:

→ increased rain in Asia + Australia

→ Upwelling of cold sea water off the Peru Coast

→ Greater fishing population of South American coast.

→ Prevalance of TRADE WINDS in the Pacific Ocean.

Influence on Indian Monsoon

→ Reversal of Walker circulation occurs during El-Nino years

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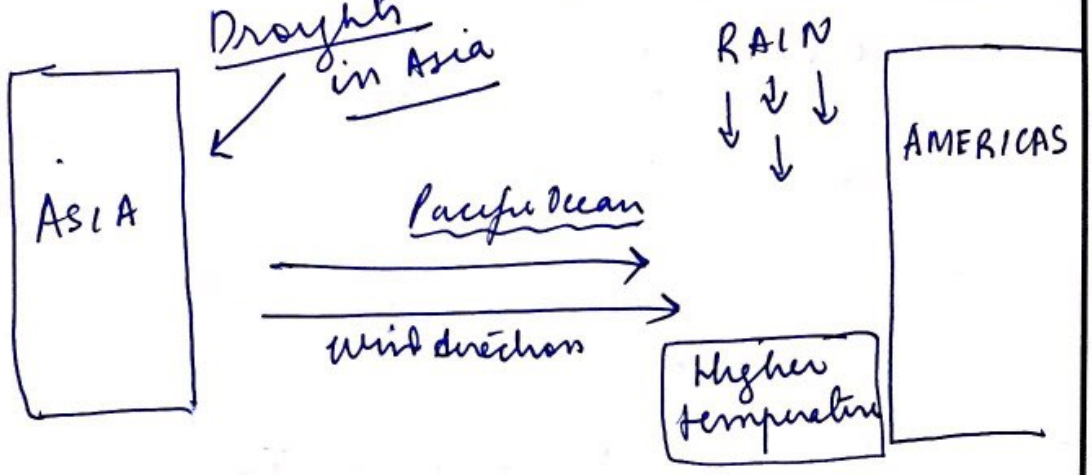

Fig: El - Nino year

→ Leads to increased temperature and higher rainfall off Peruvian Coast

→ Decrease in Intensity of Indian Monsoon due to Weaker Trade winds.

The Walker circulation and associated El-Nino is of great interest in predicting performance of Indian Monsoon and its consequent effects on Indian economy.

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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1429)

Name of Candidate	ANKUR DAS		
Medium Eng./Hindi	English	Registration Number	670858
Center	ONLINE	Date	07/08/2019

INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1	10	
2	10	
3	10	
4	10	
5	10	
6	10	
7	10	
8	10	
9	10	
10	10	
11	15	
12	15	
13	15	
14	15	
15	15	
16	15	
17	15	
18	15	
19	15	
20	15	

Total Marks Obtained:

Remarks:

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में सूचनाएं भरना आवश्यक है (नाम, प्रश्न–पत्र कोड, विद्यार्थी क्रमांक आदि)।
2. There are **TWENTY** questions printed in **ENGLISH & HINDI**
   इसमें बीस प्रश्न हैं अंग्रेजी और हिन्दी में छपे हैं।
3. **All questions are compulsory.**
   सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।
4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
   प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के अंक उसके सामने दिए गए हैं।
5. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other that the authorized one.
   प्रश्नों के उत्तर उसी माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए जिसका उल्लेख आपके प्रवेश पत्र में किया गया है और उस माध्यम का स्पष्ट उल्लेख प्रश्न–सह–उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के मुख्य पृष्ठ पर अंकित निर्दिष्ट स्थान पर किया जाना चाहिए। उल्लिखित माध्यम के अतिरिक्त अन्य किसी माध्यम में लिए गए उत्तर पर कोई अंक नहीं मिलेंगे।
6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
   प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए।
7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़ा हुआ पृष्ठ या उसके अंश को स्पष्ट रूप से काटा जाना चाहिए।

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Plot No. 857, 1st Floor, Banda Bahadur Marg (Opp Punjab & Sindh Bank), Dr. Mukherjee Nagar Delhi- 110009

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EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Contextual Competence
2. Content Competence
3. Language Competence
4. Introduction Competence
5. Structure - Presentation Competence
6. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

All the Best

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1. Illustrate how pressure groups have emerged as a strong mechanism for making democracy participatory and responsive. **(150 Words) 10 Marks**
उदाहरण प्रस्तुत करते हुए समझाइए कि किस प्रकार दबाव समूह, लोकतंत्र को सहभागी और अनुक्रियाशील बनाने हेतु एक सुदृढ़ तंत्र के रूप में उभरे हैं।

Pressure groups are a group of people who ventilate their opinions and try to influence public policy in their favour without directly taking part in politics

Roles

- Voice to minorities
- Accountability of government
- Public spirited policy changes
- Educates citizens on their rights
- Gives voice to issues not raised in mainstream political discourse

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Recent examples by pressure groups to ensure vibrant democracy

① Peoples Union of Civil Liberties
Lobbied judicially and ensured formulation of doctrine of "negative vote" and introduction of NOTA.

② India Against Corruption
Lobbied for introduction and setting up of Lokpal - ensuring transparency in public life.

③ NALSA : Recognition of Third Gender - giving them rights including voting rights

Healthy participation by pressure groups is essential in a democratic set up and their activities should be encouraged subject to greater national interest.

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2. Explain the significance and controversies, if any, associated with the Article 35A of the Indian constitution. **(150 Words) 10 Marks**

भारतीय संविधान के अनुच्छेद 35A के महत्व और उससे संबद्ध विवादों, यदि कोई हो, की व्याख्या कीजिए।

Article 35 A of the Constitution deals with the power of legislature of Jammu and Kashmir to define Permanent Residents of the State.

It was introduced under Article 370 of the Constt, giving Special Status to Jammu & Kashmir.

Significance

→ supposed to protect demographic identity of Kashmir Region.

→ Gives its Permanent Residents certain rights with respect to acquiring property, employment etc.

→ Provides greater autonomy to ~~of~~ J & K Assembly.

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Controversy

→ Introduced by Presidential Order, circumventing amendment route under Art 368.

→ Ultra-vires to Fundamental Rights (Art 14 - Equality before Law, Art 15 - Absence of Discrimination, Art 16, Art 21 & 19: Right to movement & settlement in any part of country)

→ Discriminatory to women who lose PR status on marrying non J & K residents.

While Art 35 A has some specific purposes with regard to the unique socio-political history of J & K, it should be ensured that its provisions do not hamper enjoyment of Sacrosanct Fundamental Rights.

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3. The ambiguity surrounding lobbying in India is further exacerbated by the country's endemic corruption. In this context, critically examine the case for legalising lobbying in India. **(150 words) 10 Marks**

भारत में लॉबिंग को लेकर विद्यमान अस्पष्टता देश में व्याप्त भ्रष्टाचार से और भी गंभीर हो जाती है। इस संदर्भ में, भारत में लॉबिंग को वैध बनाने के प्रश्न का समालोचनात्मक परीक्षण कीजिए।

Lobbying is defined as furtherance of a particular political / economic agenda by directly dealing with political / bureaucratic offices.

→ Lobbying is often accompanied by exchange of monetary transactions, often illegally causing corruption.

→ Augusta Westland Case:
Alleged corruption in purchase of VVIP helicopters.

→ Crony Capitalism:
Allegations of awarding large scale govt contracts to certain parties (Eg. awarding airport modernisation works to Adani Ltd).

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→ Various MNC's lobbying for Government policies conducive to their business interests.

Legalising lobbying

PROS
- Protection of Legitimate interests
- Elimination of corruption
- Better tuned to ease of doing business
- Alternate view towards policymaking

CONS
- Policy dictated by influential groups
- Elimination of voice of minorities
- Debrimental to industries who cannot afford associated costs
- Politics against tenets of welfare state (Eg. Patent protection of generic drugs)

Corruption has been a feature of certain political decisions in the past. While legal lobbying can increase transparency adequate safeguards are needed to ensure voices are not lost.

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4. Independent India adopted a modified version of the Westminster model of government. In this context discuss the commonalities and differences between the political system of India and UK. **(150 Words) 10 Marks**

स्वतंत्र भारत ने सरकार की वेस्टमिंस्टर प्रणाली का एक संशोधित संस्करण अपनाया। इस संदर्भ में, भारत और UK की राजनीतिक व्यवस्था के मध्य समानताओं और विभेदों पर चर्चा कीजिए।

Indian Polity is heavily influenced by the westminster system of Government prevalant in great Britain adopted by our founding fathers for its simplicity and familiarity

Similarities:

1. Real & Nominal Executive (Prime Minister is Head of Government while Queen / President is Head of State
2. Majority Party Rule.
3. Executive Part of Legislature.
4. Collective Responsibility of Executive (Council of Ministers) to legislature
5. Harmony betn Executive & legislative organs of govt.
6. Leadership of Prime Minister.

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Differences:

1. Head of State in UK is Hereditary (Queen) while in India, President indirectly elected.
2. Prime Minister from House of Commons in UK while he can be from any House in India.
3. Mandatory Membership of Ministers of Parliament in UK, in India, can be elected within 6 months
4. No legal responsibility of Ministers in India - do not need to countersign Acts.
5. No institution of Shadow Cabinet in India

While being influenced from the westminster System, Indian Polity has its own features dictated by socio-political necessities of Indian polity and Society.

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5. Political parties are an integral part of the democratic set up of India. In the context, discuss the need for strengthening the process of institutionalization of intra-party democracy in political parties in India. **(150 Words) 10 Marks**

राजनीतिक दल भारत की लोकतांत्रिक व्यवस्था के अभिन्न अंग हैं। इस संदर्भ में, भारत में राजनीतिक दलों में अंत: दलीय लोकतंत्र को संस्थागत किए जाने की प्रक्रिया को सुदृढ़ करने की आवश्यकता पर चर्चा कीजिए।

While India has a vibrant democracy at parliamentary level, intra party democracy is not prevalent in India.

Political parties - integral part

→ Give voice to all sections of society.

→ Ensure accountability of government.

→ Enables ideologically inclined individuals to participate in democratic set-up.

Intra Party democracy world wide

→ ~~Largest~~ oldest democracy USA : Presidential candidate chosen by Primary Election by party members

→ UK: Leader of house (PM) chosen by all members of political party

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→ Party leadership democratically elected by members

Need for strengthening intra party democracy

→ Provides opportunities for grassroots leaders to contest for political posts

→ Youth can aspire for leadership roles

→ Checks Dynastic Policies and Nepotism

→ Ensures free flow of ideas within party.

→ Ensures evolution of ideology with times.

Institutionalisation of intra - party democracy may be statutorily enforced by amending the Representation of Peoples Act (1951). Such a measure will ensure transparency (financial + political), accountability and strengthen grassroots level democracy in India

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6. It is of paramount importance to ensure that the Election Commission of India (ECI) be fully insulated from political pressure to maintain the purity of elections. In this context, discuss the need to have a relook at the process of appointment and removal of election commissioners to the ECI.
(150 Words) 10 Marks

चुनावों की शुचिता बनाए रखने के लिए यह सुनिश्चित करना सर्वाधिक महत्वपूर्ण है कि भारत निर्वाचन आयोग (ECI) राजनीतिक दबाव से पूर्णतया मुक्त रहे। इस संदर्भ में, ECI के निर्वाचन आयुक्तों की नियुक्ति और पदच्युति की प्रक्रिया पर पुनर्विचार करने की आवश्यकता पर चर्चा कीजिए।

Art. 324 provides for independent Election Commission to conduct free and fair elections.

Recent allegations:

1. Political influence in curtailing campaign period in West Bengal during 2019 elections.
2. Lack of punitive action against members of ruling party.
3. Allegations of EVM malfunction and Tampering

Mode of Appointment:

→ Chief EC and ECs appointed by President on advice of Council Prime Minister

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⇒ leads to doubts on independence

⇒ Independent + Consultative appointment procedure needed involving Govt, Leader of Opposition and Chief Justice of India.

Mode of Removal:

→ Can be removed in same manner as Judge of Supreme court.

⇒ Ruling Party with majority may misuse this privilege.

⇒ Removal must be independent, preferably through Judicial route

The independence of ECI is essential to a healthy democracy. Adequate measures should be taken to ensure the same

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7. In post-liberalised India, it is imperative that the role of state be that of a facilitator, and not one of a regulator. Analyse. **(150 words) 10 Marks**

उदारीकरण के पश्चात् के भारत में, यह अत्यावश्यक है कि राज्य की भूमिका एक सुविधाप्रदाता की हो, न कि एक नियामक की। विश्लेषण कीजिए।

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8. By providing new pools of leadership talent, lateral entry will help in addressing the most crucial challenges that the civil services in India currently face. Critically evaluate. **(150 words) 10 Marks**

प्रतिभावान नेतृत्वकर्ताओं के नए समुच्चय प्रदान कर, पार्श्व प्रवेश भारत में सिविल सेवाओं के समक्ष वर्तमान समय में व्याप्त सर्वाधिक महत्वपूर्ण चुनौतियों को दूर करने में सहायता करेगा। समालोचनात्मक मूल्यांकन कीजिए।

Lateral entry is defined as the induction of government officials directly ~~through~~ from industry and academia without going through regular recruitment process.

→ Pros

1. will allow entry of new + fresh talent
2. Provide alternate viewpoint to govt. policymaking
3. Technical expertise through professional involvement.
4. Allows domain experts to contribute to national development.

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→ Concerns

① Scuttles independence of civil services.
② Allegations of nepotism.
③ Indirect influence by industry by placing their professionals in leadership roles.
④ Lack of experience in govt functioning.
⑤ Generalist civil service helps consider all viewpoints which specialists may lack.

Way forward:

① Appointments vetted by independent body (UPSC) : Baswan and Hota Committee

② Allowing civil servants to develop specialised skills after certain years of general service : Hota Committee

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9. Discuss the need for an effective and functional working relationship between Gram Panchayats and SHGs. How can an efficient synergy between the two be achieved? **(150 words) 10 Marks**

ग्राम पंचायतों और SHGs के मध्य एक प्रभावी एवं कार्यात्मक कार्यकारी संबंध की आवश्यकता पर चर्चा कीजिए। दोनों के मध्य एक कार्यक्षम सहक्रियता किस प्रकार प्राप्त की जा सकती है?

Adequate development at village level can be ensured through proper convergence of all entities working there

SHGs and Gram panchayats work in many mutually inclusive areas like skill development, education, health services etc.

Need for effective co-operation

- Funding for SHG can be achieved from Gram Panchayat resources
- Effective interation between SHG's and Government through Gram Panchayat
- Augmenting health and educational programs of

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Gram Panchayat by effective liasoing with communities.

- SHGs often work with women, with reduced political exposure. Synergy will help in political empowerment.

Ways to ensure synergy:

1. Nomination of SHG leadership as participants in Panchayat meetings.
2. Training of women in political empowerment by Panchayat members.
3. Inclusion of SHG activities in Constitutional Provisions of discretionary functions of Gram Panchayats

Synergy between Panchayat and SHG's will strengthen grassroots level democratic setup ad development in India.

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10. Public service delivery in India has long been marred by various issues leading to poor service delivery outcomes. While discussing the reasons for the same, suggest ways to make public service delivery more efficient.

(150 words) 10 Marks

भारत में सार्वजनिक सेवा वितरण दीर्घकाल से विभिन्न समस्याओं से ग्रसित रहा है जिसका परिणाम निम्नस्तरीय सेवा वितरण है। इसके कारणों पर चर्चा करते हुए, सार्वजनिक सेवा वितरण को अधिक कुशल बनाने के उपायों का सुझाव दीजिए।

Reasons for poor delivery outcomes:

1. Lack of effective monitoring mechanisms
2. Lack of grievance redressal mechanisms
3. Absence of standardized service delivery protocols
4. Jurisdictional overlap between implementing agencies
5. Corruption + Misappropriation of funds.
6. Lack of awareness among beneficiaries
7. Lack of effective citizen charters.

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Measures to improve efficiency.

→ Effective monitoring mechanism (e-Samiksha, Social Audit)

→ Strengthening of Citizens Charter - proper drafting, implementation and awareness.

→ Effective Grievance Redressal Mechanism (Eg. CPGRAMS)

→ Sevottam Model - ensuring efficient delivery + accountability.

→ Developing standardised delivery protocols

→ Using e-Governance in service delivery (UMANG App)

→ Channeling private agencies and NGOs in last mile service delivery (Delhi Govt initiative, Akshaya Patra Foundation role in providing mid-day meal)

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11. Highlighting different Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanisms available in India, explain their importance. Also, mention different measures that have been adopted to further improve the framework of ADR in India. **(250 Words) 15 Marks**

भारत में उपलब्ध विभिन्न वैकल्पिक विवाद समाधान (ADR) तंत्रों पर प्रकाश डालते हुए, उनके महत्व की व्याख्या कीजिए। साथ ही, भारत में ADR के ढांचे में आगे और सुधार लाने के लिए अपनाए गए विभिन्न उपायों का भी उल्लेख कीजिए।

Alternate Dispute Resolution is defined as the process of mediation and resolution of disputes without judicial intervent.

Benefits

- Cheap resolution
- Less time consuming
- Reduces burden of Courts
- More suited for minor disputes where personalised touch is appreciated.
- Beneficial for marginalised sections without access to proper judicial remedies

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ADR Mechanism available in India

→ Lok Adalat: involves resolution of minor civil and compoundable criminal cases, reduces burden of courts.

→ Permanent Lok Adalats: Prevalent in areas with specialised nature of disputes like Pension Adalats, complaints relating to Telephone and Electricity bills & tariffs.

→ Integrated Grievance Redressal Mechanism for Consumers (INGRAM): Initiative of Ministry of Consumer Affairs, allows speedy resolution of consumer disputes between consumers & companies.

→ Various Tribunals which encourage

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Alternate Dispute Resolution

Measures to further Improve ADR Framework

→ Encouragement of International Arbitration - especially of Commercial Matters.

→ Declaring New Delhi Centre for International Arbitration a institute of National importance

→ Emphasis on ADR by lower courts - mandating District Legal Services Authority to explore possibility of ADR in Civil cases.

→ Encouragement by Judicial Officers for parties to opt for ADR

ADR ~~and~~ plays a vital role in reducing judicial pendency and improving delivery of justice. The process should be encouraged.

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12. Success of the institutions of local self-governance depends largely on the attitude of state governments. Discuss in the context of constitutional provisions and recent experience of the working of these institutions in India. **(250 Words) 15 Marks**

स्थानीय स्व-शासन की संस्थाओं की सफलता मुख्य रूप से राज्य सरकारों की प्रवृत्ति पर निर्भर करती है। संवैधानिक प्रावधानों और भारत में इन संस्थानों के कामकाज संबंधी हालिया अनुभव के संदर्भ में चर्चा कीजिए।

Local self government has been an integral part of Indian polity since historical times (Rig Vedic Sabha, Chola Village Assembly).

Constitutionally, the 73rd and 74th Amendment provides mandatory provisions for local self government in states.

→ Constitution of State Election Commission to ensure free and fair elections to LSGs in state.

→ Constitution of State Finance Commission for effective devolution of ~~powers~~ finances to LSGs.

→ Reservation of 33% seats for women + reservat^n for SCs/STs.

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→ Mandating Mandatory provisions like 3 tier institutions, periodic elections etc.

However, bulk of these provisions require active participation and initiative of state government.

- Estt. of SEC
- Constituting SFC
- Devolving powers of TAXATION

→ it is seen that States do not devolve taxation powers to ~~SELAVE~~ LSGs.

→ Inadequate funding for infrastructure (office spaces, IT infrastructure).

Recent issues

① WEST BENGAL: Panchayat polls marred by violence – ruling party elected unopposed in many seats.

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→ MEGHALAYA: Reluctance of State to set up Self Governing Institutions citing conflict with customary laws

→ J&K: Large scale boycott of elections due to ~~of~~ allegations of inadequate security.

While Self Govt. Institutions are essential to idea of democratic decentralisation, placing them at the disposal of states often leads to abuse / lack of political will.

→ Need to set up independent constitutional authority to ensure limits of 73rd & 74th Amendments are followed in letter & spirit.

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13. Right to freedom of religion cannot be allowed to deny right to equality and individual dignity. Discuss in the light of constitutional provisions and recent judicial pronouncements. **(250 Words) 15 Marks**

धर्म की स्वतंत्रता के अधिकार को समानता और व्यक्तिगत गरिमा के अधिकार को नकारने की अनुमति नहीं दी जा सकती है। संवैधानिक प्रावधानों और हाल की न्यायिक घोषणाओं के आलोक में चर्चा कीजिए।

Individual dignity is one of the founding principles of our Constitution, finding mention in the Preamble.

That apart, certain constitutional provisions ensure individual dignity:

Art 14: Equality of laws - cannot be discriminated on any grounds, including religions.

Art 19: Freedom of speech & expression

Art 21: Right to life.

Additionally, Constitution provides for Religious Freedom by:

"Secularism": Part of Preamble + Basic Structure.

Art 25: Freedom of Religion

Art 26 & 27: Freedom with respect to religious practices.

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However, certain recent issues have threatened dignity of individual at the altar of religious freedom

→ Sabarimala issue
→ Triple Talaq issue.
→ Issues of "Love Jihad".
→ Goolrukh Gupta Case.

Some recent Judicial pronouncements on this issues give clarity:

Sabarimala Case:
Supreme Court has ruled that the practice of preventing entry of women was discriminatory and quashed it

Triple Talaq Issue:
The S.C. in Shayra Bano Case ruled that the dignity of women is threatened in the practice of Triple Talaq and hence it is unconstitutional

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Goolrukh Gupta Case:

Mrs. Gupta, a Parsi married to a Hindu was restrained from performing last rites of father by the Parsi Association. SC ruled woman doesn't lose identity after marriage and hence practise is unconstitutional.

In conclusion, it can be stated that while religious freedom is the cornerstone of a secular state, rights of an individual take precedence and are sacrosanct.

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14. Identify the key areas of reforms required in the judicial system in India. In this context, examine the significance of the idea of putting in place an All-India Judicial Service. **(250 Words) 15 Marks**

भारत में न्यायिक प्रणाली में आवश्यक सुधारों के प्रमुख क्षेत्रों की पहचान कीजिए। इस संदर्भ में, एक अखिल भारतीय न्यायिक सेवा स्थापित करने के विचार के महत्व का परीक्षण कीजिए।

The Judicial system of India is bogged by systemic inefficiencies which hamper ~~g~~ delivery of justice.

Key issues.

- High pendency (2.3 million cases)
- Low judge - Population ratio (19.6 judges / 1 million citizens - Law commission. Ideally should be 40-50/million)
- Outdated civil + Criminal procedures (leads to loopholes, delays justice.
- Low penetration of Technology
  Reluctance to use IT in lower judiciary
  Specialised Cases - Lack of expertise (IP Law, Taxation).

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Key Reforms needed.

→ Reduce pendency – adopt time bound justice delivery – prevent undue adjournments / postponement of hearings

→ Reduce Govt litigation

→ Alternative Dispute Resolution

→ Adoption of Technology (e Courts, Nat^al Judicial Data Grid)
– allow appearance through video conference.

→ Specialised Courts for niche subjects like Intellectual Property Laws, Taxation

→ Filling of vacancies in lower Judiciary

→ Establishing <u>All India Judicial Service.</u>

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All India Judicial Service: (AIJS)

→ Provided in Art 126 of Constitution

→ Will help in forming standardised recruitment of judicial officers

→ Ensure uniform quality of officers.

→ Prevent delays / allegation of corruption in current pattern.

Concerns

① Hampers Federal Structure

② Lack of knowlege of local customs, language.

③ Commercialisation of recruitment, difficult for rural / poor candidates to prepare.

While the idea of an AIJS is promising in the realm of Judicial reforms, it has to be implemented with proper safeguards and in tandem with other equally important measures.

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15. While there are existing laws for the same, substantial efforts still need to be undertaken to prohibit people with criminal antecedents from entering into politics. Discuss in context of the problem of criminalization of politics in India and resulting issues. **(250 words) 15 Marks**

यद्यपि इस हेतु कानून विद्यमान हैं, तथापि आपराधिक पृष्ठभूमि वाले लोगों का राजनीति में प्रवेश रोकने के लिए अभी भी काफी प्रयास किए जाने की आवश्यकता है। भारत में राजनीति के अपराधीकरण की समस्या और परिणामी मुद्दों के संदर्भ में चर्चा कीजिए।

Criminalisation of Politics is detrimental to national interest. and various statutory and legal provisions are enacted to prevent it

- Representation of People Act (1951):
  1. Disqualification of elected legislators found guilty of electoral offences
  2. Disqualification if convicted with imprisonment for 2+ years

Judicial Pronouncements.

1. Lily Thomas Case: Immediate disqualification on conviction - no 90 days period to appeal

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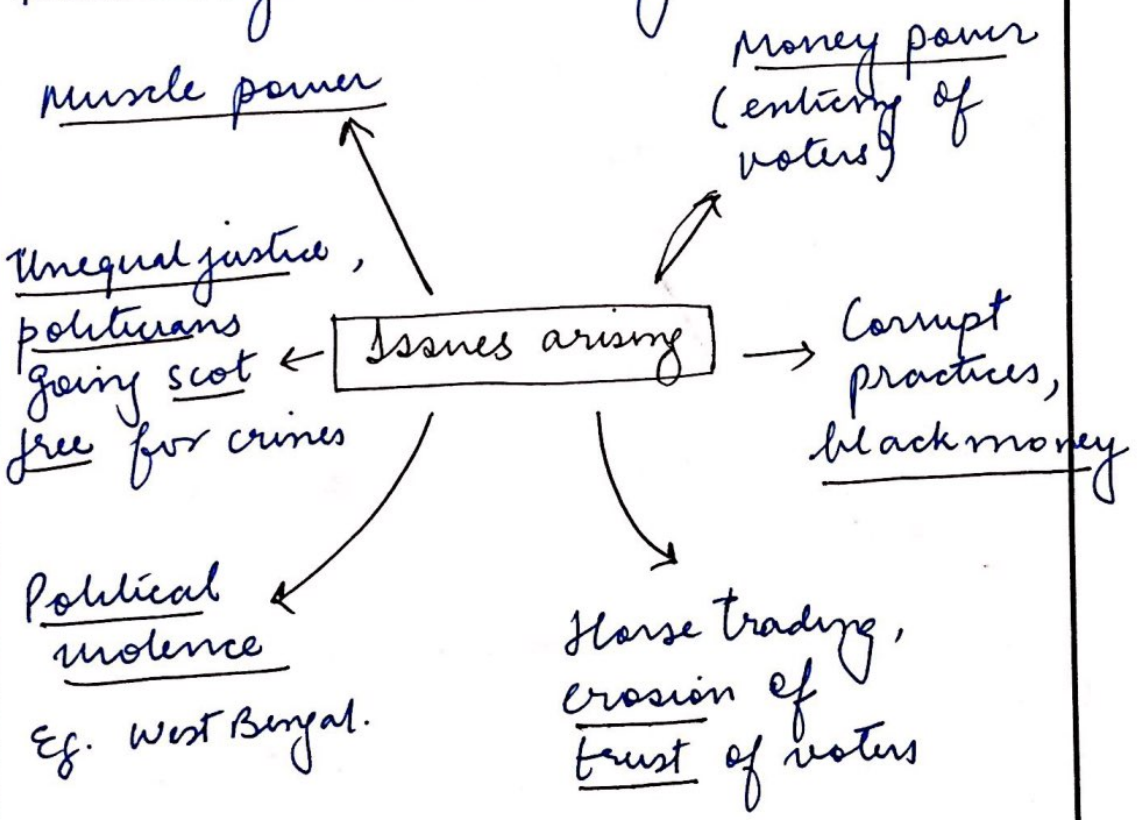
(2) Cases involving criminalisation of politics to be decided within 1 year

(3) setting up of special courts to try such cases

Additionally; 10th Schedule provides for disqualification on defection — preventing horse trading



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Recently, the Unnao Rape Case occured where MLA from Ruling party - accused - has allegedly scuttled the delivery of Justice

Solutions

→ Implementing Lily Thomas guidelines

→ Sensitisation of police to political violence

→ Robust audit mechanism to check misuse of funds

→ Flying Squads, Expenditure observers during elections.

→ Electoral Bonds to reduce unaccounted wealth.

→ Speedy trial of cases ~~of~~ involving politicians.

For a healthy democracy to function, it is imperative that its leaders are free from criminal antecedents. Judicial + Legal pronouncements in this regard should be adhered to..

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16. On the recent World Press Freedom Index (WPFI) India ranks 140. Elucidate the significance of media in a democracy like India. Identify the major issues affecting the media in contemporary times. In this context, enumerate the measures to address these issues. **(250 Words) 15 Marks**

हाल ही के विश्व प्रेस स्वतंत्रता सूचकांक (WPFI) में भारत 140वें स्थान पर है। भारत जैसे लोकतंत्र में मीडिया के महत्व को स्पष्ट कीजिए। समकालीन समय में मीडिया को प्रभावित करने वाले प्रमुख मुद्दों की पहचान कीजिए। इस संदर्भ में, इन मुद्दों का समाधान करने हेतु उपायों को सूचीबद्ध कीजिए।

India's recent dismal perfomance in WPF index is a cause of concern. Media is regarded as fourth pillar of democracy and its health is paramount.

Issues

1. Silencing freedom of speech: Censorships, indirect coercion.
2. Violence against journalists eg Gauri Lankesh murder.
3. Paid news, affecting journalistic ethos
4. Judicial Misadventure: Recent case of Meghalaya High Court initiating contempt proceedings against local daily.

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(5) Misuse of Parliamentary privileges (Contempt against journalists in Karnataka by Legislature Assembly

(6) Erosion of Management autonomy - media houses owned by vested interests.

Significance of Media

(1) Checks executive and legislature over-reach

(2) Fosters public opinion on national issues.

(3) Keeps people informed of government decisions

(4) Ensures accountability of public offices.

(5) Reports on performance of government functions

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Measures to address issues

1. Strengthening of Press Council of India - giving it powers on the lines of NHRC, CIC.
2. Stringent action against paid news.
3. Providing adequate security to media - personnel
4. Codification and curbing use of parliamentary privileges.
5. Usage of social media as an alternative source of news.
6. Insulation of media from government, management misadventures.

The role of media in a healthy democracy is paramount and requires all round efforts by different organs to maintain its sanctity. Media erosion will mean erosion of transparency + accountability and is unhealthy for democracy.

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17. Explain why the doctrine of separation of powers is considered as an indispensable part of a democratic setup. Also, discussing this doctrine in the context of India, explain the principle of 'checks and balances'.

(250 words) 15 Marks

व्याख्या कीजिए कि शक्ति के पृथक्करण के सिद्धांत को लोकतांत्रिक व्यवस्था का एक अनिवार्य घटक क्यों माना जाता है। साथ ही, भारत के संदर्भ में इस सिद्धांत पर चर्चा करते हुए, 'नियंत्रण और संतुलन' के सिद्धांत की भी व्याख्या कीजिए।

Doctrine of separation of powers is integral to democracy.

- ensures proper checks & balances
- Prevents tyranny of executive
- Ensures sanctity of Constitution and fundamental Rights
- Provides avenues for citizens who have been wronged by any one organ

Constitutional Provisions in India

Art 50: Separation of Executive from Judiciary.

Art 121, 211: Conduct of Judges cannot be discussed in Parliament / L.A.

Art 122, 212: Courts cannot inquire into proceedings of legislature

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→ Parliament cannot curtail powers of SC & HCs.

→ Judges have security of tenure and fixed service conditions.

The principle of "checks and balances" stands for protecting citizens against over-reach by any one organ

- Judicial Review : Courts can enquire into legislative + executive decisions
- Impeachment of Judges : Parliament can exercise control on conduct of judges
- Bar against repeated promulgation of ordinances : As observed by SC in Wadhwa & Krishna Kumar Cases, attempt to subvert legislative domain unconstitutional.
- Parliamentary Committees scrutiny Executive action.

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The functions of each organ in a democratic polity is important, while also ensuring they do not overstep their boundaries. Various constitutional, legal and judicial safeguards are in place to ensure separation of powers

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18. Government schemes in India have long suffered from monitoring and implementation challenges. What steps have been taken by the government recently in this regard? Also discuss the potential of social audit in addressing these challenges. **(250 words) 15 Marks**

भारत में सरकारी योजनाएं दीर्घकाल से निगरानी और कार्यान्वयन संबंधी चुनौतियों से प्रभावित रही हैं। हाल में सरकार द्वारा इस संबंध में क्या कदम उठाए गए हैं? साथ ही इन चुनौतियों को दूर करने में सामाजिक लेखापरीक्षा की क्षमता पर भी चर्चा कीजिए।

Implementation of govt schemes have often been marred by monitoring + implementation challenges

- lack of independent monitoring agencies
- Corruption at lower levels of government.
- Lack of awareness among people about schemes + its modalities
- Lack of complaint + grievance redressal mechanism
- Vast size + huge population makes monitoring hard,

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Recent steps by Government:

→ e-Samiksha Portal: Enables PMO to directly monitor implementation in states.
3-Tier mechanism: PMO, Secretaries, Chief Secretary

→ CPGRAMS: Integrated grievance redressal mechanism

→ Digitisation of service delivery: plugs leakages, corruption

→ Aadhar based biometric PoS machines: Enables real time monitoring and tracking of PDS distribution

→ Encouraging use of Social Media and WhatsApp for on-ground monitoring

→ Social Audit.

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Social Audit

Process by which beneficiaries of a particular scheme directly audit on-ground performance and report to implementing authority.

Benefits:

1. Direct perception and communication by beneficiaries
2. Elimination of false reports by middlemen
3. Constructive criticism, since beneficiaries know lacunae.

Implementation of schemes need to be followed by proper monitoring. Measures like e-Governance and Social Audit assist effective monitoring

It is necessary to further widen Social Audit and statutorily include it in implementation process (Meghalaya Model).

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19. In the context of recent concerns related to functioning of NGOs in India, discuss the need for self-regulatory guidelines and transparency mechanisms to restore the credibility of voluntary organisations.

(250 words) 15 Marks

भारत में NGOs के कार्यकरण मे संबंधित हाल की चिंताओं के संदर्भ में, स्वैच्छिक संगठनों की विश्वसनीयता को पुनर्स्थापित करने के लिए स्व-नियामकीय दिशा-निर्देशों और पारदर्शिता तंत्रों की आवश्यकता पर चर्चा कीजिए।

Recent concerns on functioning of NGOs

→ Selectiveness in Beneficiary selection - often based on Religion

→ Negative lobbying against projects of national importance (Greenpeace activism against Kudankulam Nuclear Plant)

→ Engagement in anti-National activities [Zakir Naik foundation, ultra-left leaning organisations]

→ Channeling of funding from foreign sources for anti-India activity

→ Trying to negatively influence public discourse through

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unverified propaganda activities

Self Regulatory Guidelines and Transparency Mechanisms:

→ Reporting of funds under FCRA

→ Listing aims and objectives on websites ~~or~~ in public domain.

→ Disclosure of accounts and assets under public domain.

→ Full disclosure of leadership, their nationality and political backgrounds

→ Disclosure of assets + remuneration of leadership.

Need for Self Regulation

→ Building trust among members of public

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→ Resting speculation about indulging in anti-national activity.

→ Effective engagement with government on concerned issues.

→ Alleviating concerns on threat to national security.

While the role of NGOs has been important in civic activity in India, it is imperative that they conform to all regulatory and statutory guidelines and dispel allegations of illegal and questionable activities against them

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20. Focusing on technology without realizing that e-Governance is basically about ushering reforms in governance has meant that the potential of e-governance has not been realized. Discussing the statement, suggest what should be done to address this situation. **(250 words) 15 Marks**

ई-गवर्नेंस मूलतः शासन में सुधारों का सूत्रपात करने के लिए है, यह समझे बिना प्रौद्योगिकी पर ध्यान केंद्रित करने का अर्थ यह हुआ कि ई-गवर्नेंस की क्षमता का दोहन नहीं हो पाया है। इस कथन पर चर्चा करते हुए, सुझाव दीजिए कि इस स्थिति से निपटने हेतु क्या किया जाना चाहिए।

E-Governance involves delivery of government services to citizens through an electronic medium - ensuring transparency, speed, convenience and reducing instances of corruption and negative discretion

Need to usher reforms in Governance

→ Lack of proper training of government officials.

→ Reluctance to shift to e-Governance platforms

→ Absence of standardised protocols which hamper automatic service delivery.

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→ Lack of digitisation of records, rendering e-Governance futile

→ Absence of adequate infrastructure to facilitate e-governance.

→ Lack of citizen focused delivery attitude among public servants.

The above issues have stifled the relevance of e-governance in service delivery.

Way forward:

→ Strengthening of Citizens Charters and developing awareness thereof.

→ Developing adequate standardized protocols for service delivery.

→ Digitisation of records and other data

→ Training of staff to use IT.

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→ Development of proper infrastructure for introduction of IT based tools.

→ Change in attitude among govt. officials

→ Development of trust among public to use e-Gov services.

→ Utilising role of youth & NGOs in spreading awareness.

The full benefits of e-governance can only be realised once proper reforms are ushered in administrative practices through active public effort and citizen engagement.

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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1432)

Name of Candidate	ANKUR DAS		
Medium Eng./Hindi	ENGLISH	Registration Number	670858
Center	ONLINE	Date	14/08/2019

INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1	10	
2	10	
3	10	
4	10	
5	10	
6	10	
7	10	
8	10	
9	10	
10	10	
11	15	
12	15	
13	15	
14	15	
15	15	
16	15	
17	15	
18	15	
19	15	
20	15	

Total Marks Obtained:

Remarks:

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में सूचनाएं भरना आवश्यक है (नाम, प्रश्न–पत्र कोड, विद्यार्थी क्रमांक आदि)।
2. There are **TWENTY** questions printed in **ENGLISH & HINDI**
   इसमें बीस प्रश्न हैं अंग्रेजी और हिन्दी में छपे हैं।
3. **All questions are compulsory.**
   सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।
4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
   प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के अंक उसके सामने दिए गए हैं।
5. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other that the authorized one.
   प्रश्नों के उत्तर उसी माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए जिसका उल्लेख आपके प्रवेश पत्र में किया गया है और उस माध्यम का स्पष्ट उल्लेख प्रश्न–सह–उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के मुख्य पृष्ठ पर अंकित निर्दिष्ट स्थान पर किया जाना चाहिए। उल्लिखित माध्यम के अतिरिक्त अन्य किसी माध्यम में लिए गए उत्तर पर कोई अंक नहीं मिलेंगे।
6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
   प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए।
7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़ा हुआ पृष्ठ या उसके अंश को स्पष्ट रूप से काटा जाना चाहिए।

16-B, 2nd Floor, Above National Trust Building, Bada Bazar Marg, Old Rajinder Nagar, Delhi-110060

Plot No. 857, 1st Floor, Banda Bahadur Marg (Opp Punjab & Sindh Bank), Dr. Mukherjee Nagar Delhi- 110009

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EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Contextual Competence
2. Content Competence
3. Language Competence
4. Introduction Competence
5. Structure - Presentation Competence
6. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

All the Best

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1. Explaining the reasons behind India's lower female labour force participation rates (LFPR), list the steps that have been taken to augment it. What more needs to be done? **(150 Words) 10**

भारत की निम्न महिला श्रमबल भागीदारी दर (LFPR) के पीछे उत्तरदायी कारणों को स्पष्ट करते हुए, इसे बढ़ाने हेतु उठाए गए कदमों को सूचीबद्ध कीजिए। साथ ही, बताइए कि इस दिशा में और क्या किए जाने की आवश्यकता है?

According to a report by Deloitte, India's female ~~fo~~ labour force participation has decreased from 36.5% in 2005 to 26% in 2018.

Reasons

1. Social reasons: reluctance of women to participate
2. Patriarchal setup: discourages women participation
3. Unequal wages.
4. Lack of women friendly amenities in informal workplaces (eg toilets, creches)
5. Skill missmatch.
6. Harassment, including sexual harassment

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Steps taken

① Equal Remuneration Act : promotes equal pay for both men & women

② Maternity Benefits Act: Provides 26 weeks paid maternity leave, child care facilities (creches).

③ Prevention of Sexual Harasment Act
Acting on Vishakha Guidelines by SC - Internal complaints committee, escalation of complaints

④ Skill Development : Through PM Kaushal Vikas Karyakram, Natn Career Service

⑤ Stand Up India : Loans to female entrepreneurs.

Way forward :

Additionally, proper implementation, adequate grievance redressal mechanism, awareness among women, adequate toilets in informal workplaces, security should be provided to ensure participation

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2. By rebalancing project risks between the public and private sectors, the HAM model has encouraged investments in the road infrastructure sector. Discuss. **(150 words) 10**

मार्वजनिक और निजी क्षेत्रकों के मध्य परियोजना जोखिमों को पुनर्संतुलित कर, HAM मॉडल ने सड़क अवसंरचना क्षेत्रक में निवेश को प्रोत्साहित किया है। चर्चा कीजिए।

Hybrid Annuity Model involves government and private developer jointly investing in the project cost in a 40:60 ratio, with govt payment in annual "annities", based on quality of work done

Balancing Project risks betn Public and Private sector

1. 40% of cost borne by government — easing financial pressure on private partner
2. Annual payment on quality of work — no traffic risks on private partner.
3. Enables better quality of roads, transport development.

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(3) Government involvement ensures better credit access for private party

(4) Govt. assured of work done within specified time frame

(5) Fixed project cost + quality monitoring.

Risks: (1) Long gestation period
(2) Reluctance in credit access due to NPAs.
(3) Corruption and red tapism.
(4) Traffic congestion in roads, reluctance for pvt. investors.

Way forward

(1) Adoption of Kelkar Committee recommendations regarding statutory regulatory body, dispute resolving mechanism.

(2) Development (inc. industrial) to ensure sufficient traffic on roads.

(3) Monitoring of quality standards by NHAI + Quality Council of India.

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3. Examine the need for a comprehensive policy on e-commerce in view of its domestic expansion as well as safeguarding India's interests globally. **(150 words) 10**

ई-कॉमर्स पर एक व्यापक नीति की आवश्यकता का इसके घरेलू विस्तार के साथ-साथ वैश्विक स्तर पर भारत के हितों की सुरक्षा को देखते हुए परीक्षण कीजिए।

E-commerce is defined as virtual selling - buying of goods over electronic medium without physical interaction between seller and buyer.

Issues & Need for e-commerce policy

→ Smoothen out taxation glitches in era of GST [states want more control of goods sold vs. received].

→ Domestic expansion marred by transport / logistical glitches

→ Issues related to fraud.

→ Payment related glitches — digital payments not fully adopted by Indian population

→ Concerns regarding data —

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storge of data of domestic consumers + international users.

An ecommerce policy should:

(1) Smoothen out logistical bottlenecks
↳ simplification of Customs procedures for international clients.

(2) Tax compliance eased.

(3) Definite data storage guidelines in compliance of international standards [European GDPR]

(4) Security of online transactions to be ensured.

(5). Consumer protection - protection from frauds, misleading advertisements

(6) Protection against predatory pricing, fair trade for physical stores.

The growth of e-commerce should be ensured by a proper regulatory environment and e-commerce policy

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4. In view of the growing significance of FinTech innovations, discuss the potential and challenges of mainstreaming FinTech in Indian economy.
(150 words) 10

फिनटेक (FinTech) नवाचारों के बढ़ते महत्व को देखते हुए, भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था में फिनटेक को मुख्यधारा में लाने की संभावनाओं और चुनौतियों पर चर्चा कीजिए।

Fin Tech innovations refer to new-age methods for streamling financial transactions across digital payments, equity, insurance and other sectors.

Potential

1. Goes with Digital India + Digital payments push of govt.
2. Convenient and efficient payments.
3. Secure - 2/3 factor authentication
4. Ability to plug leakages in subsidy delivery / PDS.
5. Prevention of money laundering — enables monitoring of suspicious transactions.

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Challenges

1. Lack of robust financial security mechanism in virtual space.
2. Reluctance of people to accept.
3. Low internet penetration + high cost of hardware.
4. Regulatory compliances cumbersome
5. Concerns about data-protection, phishing, data fraud.

Way forward:

1. Awareness about Fintech innovations.
2. Robust digital security ecosystem.
3. Spreading awareness about safe fintech practices among people.
4. Regulatory Sandbox for development and trial of new innovations.

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5. With India striving to achieve its development objectives, examine how blue economy can help in pursuing the objectives of economic development and ecological sustainability. **(150 words) 10**

भारत द्वारा अपने विकास उद्देश्यों को प्राप्त करने के प्रयास में, परीक्षण कीजिए कि किस प्रकार नीली अर्थव्यवस्था आर्थिक विकास और पारिस्थितिकीय संधारणीयता के उद्देश्यों को प्राप्त करने में सहायता कर सकती है।

Blue Economy refers to the harnessing of marine & freshwater living resources for economic development.

The NITI Aayog Action Agenda states that Blue Economy has the potential to ensure economic dev of populations while ensuring ecological sustanality.

→ Enables growth of small scale fishery / prawn cultivation in marine / freshwater areas.

→ Provides scope for food processing and further export.

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→ Alternate source of income for people engaged in agriculture

Ecological sustainability ensured by

① Use of proper sized nets - prevents killing of spawn/ young fishes.

② Prevention of overfishing -

③ Organic pisciculture, avoiding use of growth regulators, artificial feed.

④ Rearing of indigenous fish varieties - no invasive/exotic species.

Blue economy has the potential to secure economic development of coastal communities, Care should be taken they are ecologically sustainable.

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6. Reliance on borrowings for capital expenditure in railways reflects a weakening financial position. Comment on the statement and discuss ways in which better resource generation and utilisation can be achieved therein.

(150 words) 10

रेलवे में पूंजीगत व्यय के लिए उधारी पर निर्भरता कमजोर होती वित्तीय स्थिति को प्रतिबिंबिति करती है। इस कथन पर टिप्पणी कीजिए तथा उन उपायों पर चर्चा कीजिए जिनमे इसमें बेहतर संसाधन सृजन और उपयोगिता प्राप्त की जा सकती है।

Borrowings for capital expenditure in railways is a sign of weak financial position

Reasons:

1. Large scale evasion of ticketing by passengers
2. High operating costs (power, diesel)
3. Large number of non-essential assets (stadiums, large colonies etc)
4. Low-unrevised freight rates.
5. Old age of rakes – low energy efficiency.
6. Slow adoption of modern, more efficient technology.

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Better resource generation + utilization:

1. Monetization of existing railway properties [hotels over stations, shopping complexes].
2. Adoption of energy efficient rolling stock.
3. Prioritised electrification of all tracks - save diesel costs.
4. Revision of freight rates.
5. Strict measures to prevent ticket-less travel.

Railways is known as "life-blood" of the nation. Its sound financial health and efficient operation is essential for smooth functioning of economic engine in India

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7. With water increasingly becoming a scarce resource, large scale adoption of micro irrigation techniques could prove to be a game changer in India. Analyse. Also enumerate various steps taken by the government to promote micro irrigation in India.

(150 words) 10

जल के उत्तरोत्तर दुर्लभ संसाधन बनते जाने के कारण, भारत में सूक्ष्म सिंचाई तकनीकों का व्यापक पैमाने पर अंगीकरण निर्णायक सिद्ध हो सकता है। विश्लेषण कीजिए। साथ ही, भारत में सूक्ष्म सिंचाई को बढ़ावा देने हेतु सरकार द्वारा उठाए गए विभिन्न कदमों को भी सूचीबद्ध कीजिए।

Micro irrigation refers to delivering water directly at the roots of plants to minimise wastage and surface runoff

Benefits

- Prevents wastage of water
- Prevents surface erosion due to runoff
- Amount of water can be modified as per crops requirements
- Enables fertigation – delivery of nutrients along with water
- Prevents nutrient washing off
- Recycling of water from other uses

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Steps being taken by Govt

(1) "Harkhet ko Pani" - promotion of micro-irrigation among farmers

(2) "More Crop per Drop" - water use efficiency through awareness of techniques among farmers

(3) Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Program to focus on micro-irrigation techniques.

(4) MoU with Israel for tranfer of technology - Israel is a world leader.

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8. Livestock farming not only contributes to climate change but is also affected by it. Elaborate the statement and discuss some measures that can be taken to make livestock farming more sustainable as well as resilient.

(150 Words) 10

पशुधन खेती (लाइवस्टॉक फार्मिंग) न केवल जलवायु परिवर्तन में योगदान देता है, बल्कि इससे प्रभावित भी होता है। इस कथन का सविस्तार वर्णन कीजिए और पशुधन खेती को अधिक संधारणीय के साथ-साथ लचीला (रिज़िल्यंट) बनाने हेतु उठाए जा सकने वाले कुछ कदमों की विवेचना कीजिए।

Livestock farming is practised by 60% of rural population and is affected by global climate change.

Contribution to Climate Change

- Emission of methane, ammonia by ruminants (cows, buffaloes).
- Large amount of water required [80 l water to produce 1 kg meat]
- Large energy reqd to produce fodder.

Effect of Climate change

- Increased fungal + bacterial

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diseases due to higher temperature
→ Reduction in milk yield due to large variation in temperature

Measures to make farming sustainable

1. Free range cattle – as opposed to industrial fodder fed ones
2. Improvement in food processing technology – reduction in energy requirement.
3. Improvements in transport infrastructure.

Measures for resilience

1. Development of disease resistant varieties.
2. ~~[illegible]~~ Promotion of natural crossing to preserve natural genetic variation

The success of livestock farming depends on its adaptability and sustainability in an increasingly changing climate

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(इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

9. The cropping pattern of a region is influenced by geo-climatic, socio-cultural, economic, historical and political factors. Substantiate with relevant examples. **(150 words) 10**

किसी क्षेत्र का शस्य प्रतिरूप भू-जलवायविक, सामाजिक-सांस्कृतिक, आर्थिक, ऐतिहासिक और राजनीतिक कारकों से प्रभावित होता है। प्रासंगिक उदाहरणों के साथ पुष्टि कीजिए।

The cropping pattern of a region is influenced by various factors

① Geo-climatic: Monsoon type of climate in India enables sowing of rice during onset and harvest during dry season, making India one of the largest producers of rice in the world.

② Socio Cultural: People in North India as well as greater central - Asian region have traditionally consumed wheat since ancient times (Indus Valley) This trend shows in current cropping pattern.

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(3) Economic : Famine in Ireland led to large scale cultivation of potato as it was a cheap and abundant source of carbohydrates

(4) Historical : Introduction of rice to Japan by ancient Indian traders has led to rice being prominent crop in East Asian Countries.

(5) Political : Large scale plantation of Tea in Assam by colonial government led to Assam being the largest ~~pro~~ tea producing region till date.

Cropping factors are influenced by a myriad range of factors, providing an interesting insight to human history.

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10. A developed Inland Waterway Transport (IWT) will not only augment the overall transport capacity of the country, but also help correct the multi-modal transport mix. Discuss. **(150 words) 10**

एक विकसित अंतर्देशीय जलमार्ग परिवहन (IWT) न केवल देश की समग्र परिवहन क्षमता को बढ़ाएगा, अपितु इससे मल्टी-मॉडल परिवहन मिश्रण को सुधारने में भी सहायता मिलेगी। चर्चा कीजिए।

Inland Waterways involve use of navigable channels of rivers / other water bodies to efficiently move goods & passengers over long distances. India has developed IWT along rivers Ganga (NW-1), Brahmaputra (NW-2) among others

Cheap and efficient transport.

Connects hinterlands to ports (Industrial belt in UP to Haldia port)

Benefits

Provides multimodal transport (Jal Marg Vikas project)

Cross Border Trade (India - Bangladesh through NW-2)

Provides connectivity to landlocked areas (North-East India to Bay of Bengal)

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Role in Multi-Modal Transport

① Connects hinterland to industrial areas through road + railways (JMVP – Passing through dense agricultural and mineral rich areas)

② Goods effiently / cheaply transported over water and last mile connectivity by road / rail [North East Main]

③ Connects Industrial Corridors / Dedicated Freight Corridors to Upstream areas.

④ Roll on – Roll off system ensures cheaper transport costs (At Dhubri, Assam, over River Brahmaputra)

The role of IWT is very important in ensuring cheap and cost effective connectivity between agriculture / mineral rich hinterland and posts, among others. Their development should be ensured.

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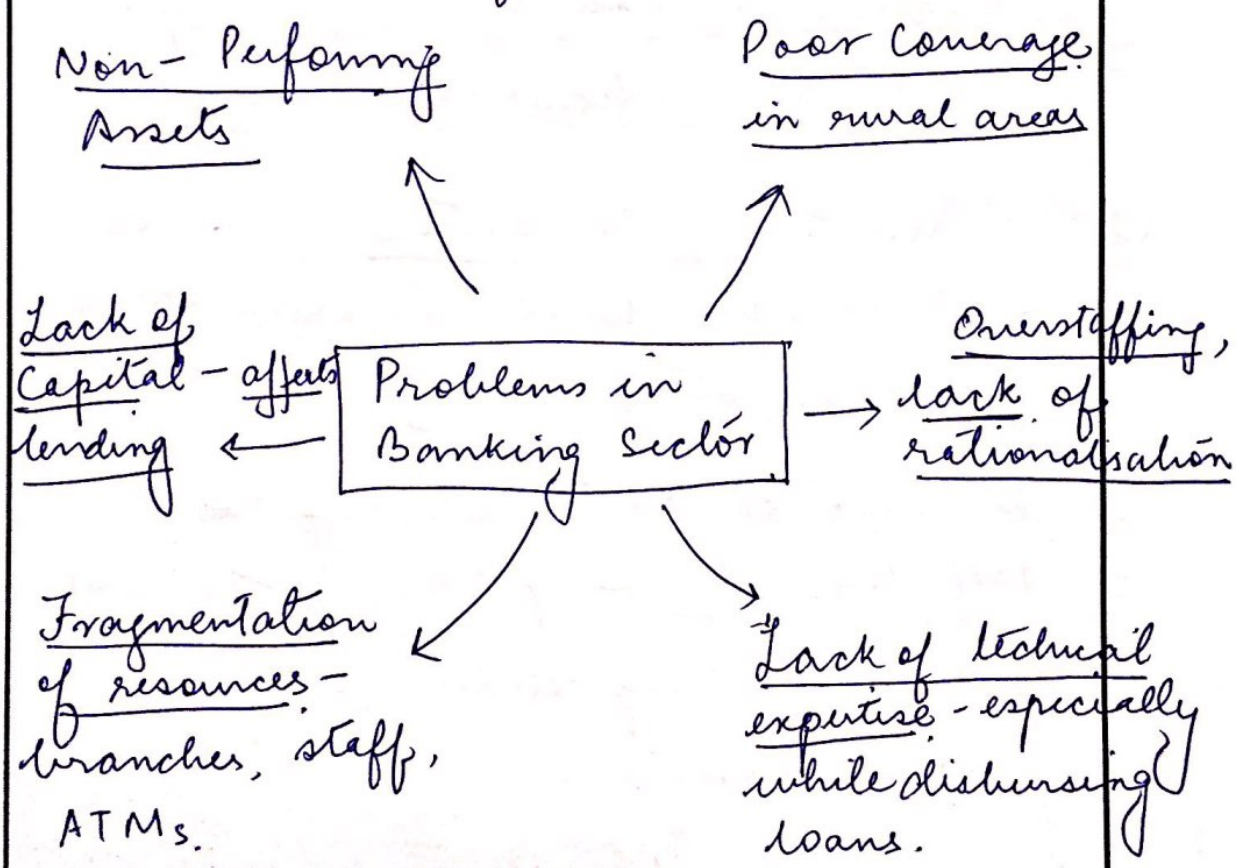
11. Can the consolidation of banks help in stemming the existing problems in the banking sector? Discuss. **(250 words) 15**

क्या बैंकों का समेकन बैंकिंग क्षेत्रक में वर्तमान समस्याओं से निपटने में सहायता कर सकता है? चर्चा कीजिए।

Recently, Vijaya Bank, Bank of Baroda and Dena Bank merged to form a consolidated entity. This follows the merger of State Bank Group bringing into focus the role of consolidation of banks.



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Role of Consolidation in addressing these problems

① Consolidation will help in taking adequate haircuts / rationalisation of loans / NPAs.

② Will give access to wider capital pool for lending activities

③ Expand reach of branches / ATM to unbanked areas.

④ Eliminate fragmentation [presence of large no. of banks in some areas, lack in other areas]

⑤ Lead to better quality of staff training - provide technical expertise - help eliminate chances of "bad loans".

⑥ Overhaul + fresh ideas in leadership / management

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Points to note:

① Consolidation should not deviate banks from welfare obligations. (opening of Jan-Dhan a/cs in rural areas)

② Interests of staff should be taken into account.

③ Should be accompanied by governance / management reforms.

④ Larger capital → larger lending exposure → more risks : Adequate precautions to be taken

While consolidation of banking sector will lead to greater synergy and coordination, it should be ensured that adequate precautions are taken to avoid financial distress to large capital banks.

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12. Why has the contribution of manufacturing sector, as a percentage of the GDP, remained stagnant in the recent years? In this context, analyse the achievements of National Manufacturing Policy, 2011 with regards to its intended objectives. **(250 words) 15**

विगत वर्षों में GDP के प्रतिशत के रूप में विनिर्माण क्षेत्रक का योगदान स्थिर क्यों रहा है? इस संदर्भ में, अपने लक्षित उद्देश्यों के संबंध में राष्ट्रीय विनिर्माण नीति, 2011 की उपलब्धियों का विश्लेषण कीजिए।

The contribution of manufacturing to GDP is currently at 16%. It has remained stagnant for the follⁿ reasons:

1. Lack of market demand owing to higher inflation in necessary goods.
2. Global economic slowdown - affects export demand.
3. Lack of skill upgradation among factory workers.
4. Regulatory hurdles in setting up of newer industries.

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(5) Lacunae in transport infrastructure

(6) Lacunae in essential infrastructure like 24 X 7 electricity, internet connectivity, water.

(7) Failure to catch up with technology driven manufacturing processes.

National Manufacturing Policy 2011

(1) Improve share of GDP manufacturing in GDP from 16% to 25%

(2) Skilling of workforce

(3) Easing setting up of manufacturing units

(4) Impetus to MSME sector.

(5) Achieve collaboration with State governments.

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Achievements of NMP - 2011.

① Make in India program drawing increased FDI in manufacturing sector.

② Share of MSME about 40% of total industrial output by value.

③ Skilling programs - PM Kaushal Vikas Yojana

④ Spirit of competitive - federalism, role of states increased - drawing investors

⑤ Setting up of SEZs (Spl. Economic Zones), NIMZs etc.

While the NMP 2011 envisages greater manufacturing output, it should be accompanied by on-ground reforms. India's progressive increase in Ease of Doing Business ranking shows we are on the right path

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13. One of the goals that a developing economy aspires for is to bring down the Incremental Capital-Output Ratio (ICOR). In this context, what are the constraints that underlie the efficient conversion of savings rate to investments in the Indian economy? Also suggest some measures to improve this efficiency. **(250 words) 15**

एक विकासशील अर्थव्यवस्था जिन लक्ष्यों की आकांक्षा रखती है उनमें से एक वृद्धिशील पूंजी-उत्पाद अनुपात (इंक्रीमेंटल कैपिटल-आउटपुट रेश्यो: ICOR) में कमी लाना है। इस संदर्भ में, भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था में बचत दर के निवेश में कुशल रूपांतरण के समक्ष आने वाली बाधाएँ क्या हैं? साथ ही, इसकी कुशलता में सुधार हेतु कुछ उपायों का भी सुझाव दीजिए।

Incremental Capital – Output Ratio is a measure which shows the amount of capital required to produce a given product.

High ICOR indicates inefficient economic environment as a large amount of capital is being used to produce low value goods.

Constraints to efficient conversion of savings to investments.

① Low savings rate – Indians usually prefer investing in immovable assets / gold to saving in banks.

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(2) Aversion to investments: Retail investment is affected by reluctance to invest in equity and preference for gold / immovable property.

(3) NPA Crisis : Proliferation of bad loans makes it difficult for banks to lend for business.

(4) Lacunae in Corporate Governance: Recent instances of malafide disbursement of loans (ICICI Bank case, PNB - Nirav Modi case) leads to reluctance in credit access.

(5) Regulatory hurdles in setting up business affects investments

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Measures to improve.

① Abatement of NPA crisis through strategic waivers / writing offs, haircuts, bank consolidation.

② Awareness and promotion of financial inclusion among savers.

③ Efficient transmission of bank rate cuts by RBI.

④ Overhaul of corporate governance structures – Kotak Committee recommendations.

Efficient conversion of savings to investments and lowering of ICOR is sine-qua-non for rapid economic growth. Various regulatory and statutory measures should be introduced to ensure the same.

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14. Highlight the factors responsible for rise in the number of start-ups in India in recent years. Analyzing the challenges in the existing start-up ecosystem, suggest some measures to resolve them. **(250 words) 15**

विगत वर्षों में भारत में स्टार्ट-अप की संख्या में वृद्धि के लिए उत्तरदायी कारकों पर प्रकाश डालिए। वर्तमान स्टार्ट-अप पारितंत्र की चुनौतियों का विश्लेषण करते हुए, उनका समाधान करने हेतु कुछ उपायों का सुझाव दीजिए।

A start-up is defined as a newly incorporated business entity (< 5 years old) which operates in a niche / unique market segment, often with the use of technology.

The Ministry of Corporate Affairs has reported a four fold increase in number of registered start-ups in recent years

Factors responsible

(1) Proliferation of high-speed low cost internet connectivity.

(2) Reduction of costs in mobile handsets - wider market reach in Tier II and III cities for startups

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(3) Rising disposable incomes allowing greater leisure spending (Food ordering apps, entertainment apps)

(4) Preference for convenience among consumers (cab aggregators, household service apps)

(5) Large pool of IT trained human-resources engaging in development.

Challenges in existing ecosystem:

(1) Regulatory compliance burden (labour, taxation, permissions)

(2) Data storage threats - European GDPR mandates stringent data storage norms.

(3) Taxation issues: recent concerns about Angel Tax.

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(4) Rapid development in technology - unable to keep up.

(5) Cut-throat competition from foreign startups (Flipkart vs. Amazon etc)

Measures to resolve:

(1) Simplifying regulatory requirements, permissions

(2) Higher capital access through initiatives like "Start-up India"

(3) Provision of incubators in colleges to hone early stage startups.

(4) Development of robust data protection policy.

Startups have the potential to create high value and employment in current economic scenario. It should be ensured that their growth is encouraged.

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15. There is a high cost of compliance as well as complexities associated with existing labour laws at centre and state levels. Discuss. What steps have recently been taken by the central government to address these challenges? **(250 words) 15**

केंद्र और राज्य स्तरों पर वर्तमान श्रम कानूनों के साथ अनुपालन की उच्च लागत के साथ-साथ जटिलताएँ भी जुड़ी हुई हैं। चर्चा कीजिए। इन चुनौतियों से निपटने के लिए केंद्र सरकार द्वारा हाल में क्या कदम उठाए गए हैं?

Labour laws in India are enforced by both central and State governments - which leads to multiplicity and high associated compliance costs.

Effects of such complexity

1. Reduces ease of doing business, difficult to set up compliance mechanism across separate states
2. Lack of benefit portability among workers - adversely affects migration
3. Pushes up costs for companies.
4. Leads to lack of employment opportunities.

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(5) Unequal regulations leads to lesser wages for workers in some states.

Steps taken by Centre:

(1) Passing of Wage Code Bill:
Consolidates various labour laws including Payment of Wages Act, Bonus Act etc.

→ equalised minimum wage across similar geographical areas.

→ Easier compliance

(2) Shram Suvidha Portal:

→ Compliance online by integrating various labour regulations.

→ Ensures social security portability.

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③ Various pension schemes and welfare schemes for workers (PM Shram Yogi Maan Dhan Yojana).

→ Provides assured pension and social security to workers.

The success of India as an investment destination depends upon ease of compliance. ~~(which)~~ such measures also boost employment. Taking steps to streamline these issues, it should be ensured that workers rights are not effected.

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16. The contribution of coal based power generation is not expected to substantially go down in the next few decades, despite growing importance of renewables. Comment on the statement in light of increasing demand for power in India. **(250 words) 15**

नवीकरणीय संसाधनों के बढ़ते महत्व के बावजूद, कोयला आधारित विद्युत उत्पादन के योगदान में अगले कुछ दशकों में मूलतः कमी आने की उम्मीद नहीं है। भारत में विद्युत की बढ़ती मांग के आलोक में इस कथन पर टिप्पणी कीजिए।

Coal Based power-generation is the mainstay of the power sector in India.

Reasons for prevalance → increased power demand

→ High demand for power from industrial sector

→ Rising urbanisation - more power demand.

→ Focus on Make in India Policy - large scale - uninterupted power required.

→ Railways modernisation - electrification of all tracks by 2022 - high demand for power.

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→ IT sector requires uninterrupted power supply.

→ Energy intensive capital goods industries [iron and steel, heavy machinery]

→ Heating up of climate - increased usage of air-conditioners.

→ Food processing industry major consumer [production, storage of perishable goods in cold storage].

Significance of coal based power vis a vis renewable energy

① Low generation capacity compared to thermal power plant.

② High cost of adoption of renewable energy.

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(3) Higher calorific value of coal – more energy per unit raw material.

(4) Climatic conditions not always feasible for renewable energy.

(5) High amount of power needed, ~~new~~ renewables cannot generate.

(6) Concerns about ecological effects of mega-hydel power-plants.

While impetus on renewable energy exists, its penetration remains low (16%). This coupled with high energy requirements makes coal based power indispensable

→ Need of the hour is to develop efficient and clean generation technology from coal.

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17. Elaborate the strategic and operational elements of the Agriculture Export Policy, 2018 and discuss the role it can play to achieve the target of doubling farmers' income by 2022. **(250 words) 15**

कृषि निर्यात नीति, 2018 के रणनीतिक एवं परिचालन-संबंधी तत्वों का सविस्तार वर्णन कीजिए और 2022 तक किसानों की आय को दोगुना करने के लक्ष्य को प्राप्त करने में इसके द्वारा निभायी जा सकने वाली भूमिका की विवेचना कीजिए।

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18. Write a brief note on 'Dry Ports' and their significance in mitigating logistic challenges in India. Also, discuss the challenges in their development and measures needed to address them. **(250 words) 15**

भारत में लॉजिस्टिक्स की चुनौतियों को कम करने में 'शुष्क पत्तनों' एवं उनके महत्व पर एक संक्षिप्त टिप्पणी लिखिए। साथ ही, उनके विकास में आने वाली चुनौतियों और उनके समाधान हेतु आवश्यक उपायों पर चर्चा कीजिए।

Dry Ports are inland ports which are connected to sea-ports by multi-modal transport networks enabling efficient export-import.

Significance

- Connects hinterland to ports.
- Export of goods produced in landlocked areas.
- Provides employment opportunities
- Creates all round economic development
- facilitates trading in perishable commodities like flowers directly from source.
- Export of minerals from such producing areas.

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Challenges

1. High cost required for development.
2. Absence of multi-modal transport network.
3. Lack of significant business in hinterland to justify setting up of dry ports
4. Credit availability reduced due to NPA crisis
5. Road infrastructure found to be inadequate
6. Lack of willingness among private sector.

Way forward

1. Promotion of PPP model in their development.

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(2) . Development of freight corridors (Eastern + Western dedicated freight corridors)

(3) Co-operation with state government to share costs + provide necessary infrastructural facilities.

(4) Industrial development to generate sufficient business / goods

(5) Accelerated road development (Bharatmala Parियोजना) and multimodal transport network. (Jal Marg Vikas Project).

Dry Ports are essential for all-round economic development. While the government has provided impetus in setting up of such ports (Inland Container Depots, Airport Oriented Industrial Clusters), some shortcomings are to be addressed to ensure their development.

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19. Development of food processing industry will help in achieving the twin goals of inclusive growth and food security. Discuss. Also, account for the competitive advantages enjoyed by India in the food processing sector.

(250 words) 15

खाद्य प्रसंस्करण उद्योग के विकास से समावेशी विकास और खाद्य सुरक्षा के दोहरे लक्ष्यों को प्राप्त करने में सहायता मिलेगी। चर्चा कीजिए। साथ ही, खाद्य प्रसंस्करण क्षेत्रक में भारत को प्राप्त प्रतिस्पर्धात्मक लाभ का भी विवरण दीजिए।

Food processing industry provides significant possibility of inclusive growth & food security.

1. Enables crop diversification and improved revenue for farmers.
2. Increases shelf life of food items
3. Prevents wastage and distress selling by farmers.
4. Ensures availability of food items all over India (Amul Butter, canned fish available all India)

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(5) Provides employment in industrial sector

(6) Industrial development in rural areas.

(7) Earns valuable foreign exchange.

(8) Inclusive growth through greater revenue for farmers than just raw produce.

(9) Enables food security by helping in preservation and transport. (Amul baby milk powder - cheap nutrition for infants all over India)

Competitive advantage

(1) Largest dairy producer worldwide

(2) Large cropping season + varied climate supports many different crops.

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(3) Long coastline provides ample marine production.

(4) Large domestic market

(5) Large expatriate community, demand all around the world for pickles, milk products

(6) Constitutionally sanctioned system of co-operatives ~~for~~ helps in easier conglomeration of producers into co-operative units - fair prices.

The food processing sector holds immense potential. While govt has devised schemes like SAMPADA, Mega Food Parks, on ground implementation through proper cold storage infrastructure, proper transport, credit availability should be ensured to ensure proper success of the sector.

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20. Identify the problems faced by Indian agriculture as a consequence of changing land holding pattern as witnessed in the findings of Agriculture census, 2015-16. In light of these problems, suggest suitable ways to resolve such structural issues in agriculture. **(250 words) 15**

जैसा कि कृषि संगणना, 2015-16 के जाँच परिणामों में देखा गया है, परिवर्तनशील भू-धारण प्रतिरूप के परिणामस्वरूप भारतीय कृषि के समक्ष आने वाली समस्याओं की पहचान कीजिए। इन समस्याओं के प्रकाश में, कृषि में ऐसे संरचनात्मक मुद्दों का समाधान करने के लिए उपयुक्त उपायों का सुझाव दीजिए।

Changing land holding pattern is one of the major problem in Indian agriculture.

→ Land fragmentation — resulting in decreased revenue.

→ Inability to use large machinery in ~~[illegible]~~ small landholdings

→ Prevalance of sustistence agriculture

→ Sub-leasing of land to landless labours.

→ high land rates being imposed on non-statutory tenants.

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→ Women not inheriting agricultural land – landless farmers.

→ Diversion of agricultural land to non-agricultural uses.

Ways to resolve

→ Statutory and strict enforcement of land reform laws.

→ Ensuring equitable distribution of land among women.

→ Prevention of sub-leasing land to agricultural labourers [prevent absentee Landlordism]

→ Discouraging fragmenting land -

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→ Awareness of new age cropping practices, high yielding seed varieties

→ Encouragement of mechanisation. (loans, machine banks etc)

Rationalisation of land holding is of paramount importance in ensuring higher agricultural yield. Strict implementation of all statutory guidelines should be ensured

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